

Community Issues Report

THIRD QUARTER 2010

Meredith Corporation
WHNS FOX Carolina

10/1/10

Meredith Corporation WHNS Fox Carolina

COMMUNITY ISSUES

7/1/10 – 9/30/10

Consumer, Health & Safety

An interest in knowing about events that impact our daily lives. A need for information about how to be wise shoppers of goods and services and how to live healthy and safe lives.

Crime

A need to know about crime and law enforcement activities and a concern for personal safety.

Education

A concern about the money and skills needed to improve schools and an interest in improving student's quality of education.

Environment

A concern for how the environment is affected by human activity.

Government

An interest in how government affects our personal lives

Jobs/Economy/Growth

An interest in the local and national economic outlook and the impact growth has on our communities

Quality of Life

An interest in things that improve one's satisfaction with life.

The following pages list representative samples of program segments from The Ten O'clock Newscast, The News at 6:30 Newscast and The Morning Newscast during this quarter that respond to our ascertained issues. Each segment was 20 seconds to 3 minutes in length (except as otherwise reported).

The following pages also identify issue-responsive episodes of programs, which are listed under the appropriate issue.

WHNS also broadcasts public service announcements, news and weather cut-ins as needed to inform local community of breaking news and emergencies.

Attachments



Consumer, Health & Safety

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **CONSUMER, HEALTH & SAFETY**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays (airs weekly)	6:30am	TODAY'S HOMEOWNER

Description: A half-hour weekly television show that features information on how to maintain and improve your home, both inside and out. The approach to home improvement helps everyone from the experienced do-it-yourselfer to the first time homeowner. Projects are taken from start to finish in each weekly episode. (30:00)

July 5, 2010

Cedar Mountain Fire Rescue officials said that they rescued a hiker who was stuck on Rainbow Falls in northern Greenville County on Monday. Jacob Swanson, the hiker, told FOX Carolina that he went off the trail near the waterfall and attempted to climb the rocks when he got stuck. Rescue crews repelled down the falls, and hooked Swanson into a harness and brought him down to the ground safely. Swanson said he was not hurt. He said that he is happy to be back on solid ground. In an unrelated incident, six hikers were rescued from a trail on Ceaser's Head, also in northern Greenville County. Park rangers said that the group of seven people decided to switch trails and ended up taking an 8 1/2 mile long trail. They said that the hikers were not prepared for the changes in elevation. The hikers were stranded in the woods for about two hours, while one of them hiked back until they could get a cell phone signal and called 911. Rescuers had to hike about 4.5 miles into the woods to reach the group. "It's extremely important for hikers to try to make contact with the ranger staff at the visitor's center to make sure they know which trails they're going to do and the condition of those trails because some trails can be more difficult," said Michael Trotter, a park ranger. Rangers said that overall the holiday weekend was a safe one, with only the two rescues.

July 23, 2010

Traffic is now flowing on both sides of Interstate 385 as a nearly eight-month construction project comes to an end. Fifteen miles of the highway, between its fork with Interstate 26 and Gray Court, have been closed since Jan. 4 as part of a rehabilitation project. DOT officials said that this project was the first time in the state's history an interstate was shut down. Three exits have been closed to southbound traffic since that traffic was forced to travel in the northbound lane during construction. Those exits, numbers 2, 5 and 10, reopened to southbound traffic only last Friday. "Typically, this job would have took two or three years to construct under normal lane closures and we did it in eight months," said Resident Construction Engineer Nick Waites. On Friday, crews reopened the northbound side of the highway to traffic, marking the first time since the shutdown that traffic can now travel to Greenville from the I-26 interchange.

August 2, 2010

The latest form of identity theft doesn't depend on stealing your Social Security number. Now thieves are targeting your kid's number long before the little one even has a bank account. Hundreds of online businesses are using computers to find dormant Social Security numbers - usually those assigned to children who don't use them - then selling those numbers under another name to help people establish phony credit and run up huge debts they will never pay off. Authorities say the scheme could pose a new threat to the nation's credit system. Because the numbers exist in a legal gray area, federal investigators have not figured out a way to prosecute the people involved. "If people are obtaining enough credit by fraud, we're back to another financial collapse," said Linda Marshall, an assistant U.S. attorney in Kansas City. "We tend to talk about it as the next wave." The sellers get around the law by not referring to Social Security numbers. Instead, just as someone might pay for an escort service instead of a prostitute, they refer to CPNs - for credit profile, credit protection or credit privacy numbers. Julia Jensen, an FBI agent in Kansas City, discovered the scheme while investigating a mortgage-fraud case. She has given presentations to lenders across the Kansas City area to show them how easy it is to create a false credit score using these numbers. "The back door is wide open," she said. "We're trying to get lenders to understand the risks." It's not clear how widespread the fraud is, mostly because the scheme is difficult to detect and practiced by fly-by-night businesses. But the deception is emerging as millions of Americans watch their credit scores sink to new lows. Figures from April show that 25.5 percent of consumers - nearly 43.4 million people - now have a credit score of 599 or below, marking them as poor risks for lenders. They will have trouble getting credit cards, auto loans or mortgages under the tighter lending standards banks now use. The scheme works like this: Online companies use computers and publicly available information to find random Social Security numbers. The numbers are run through public databases to determine whether anyone is using them to obtain credit. If not, they are offered for sale for a few hundred to several thousand dollars. Because the numbers often come from young children who have no money of their own, they carry no spending history and offer a chance to open a new, unblemished line of credit. People who buy the numbers can then quickly build their credit rating in a process called "piggybacking," which involves linking to someone else's credit file. Many of the business selling the numbers promise to raise customers' credit scores to 700 or 800 within six months. If they default on their

payments, and the credit is withdrawn, the same people can simply buy another number and start the process again, causing a steep spiral of debt that could conceivably go on for years before creditors discover the fraud. Jensen compared the businesses that sell the numbers to drug dealers. "There's good stuff and bad stuff," she said. "Bad stuff is a dead person's Social Security number. High-quality is buying a number the service has checked to make sure no one else is using it." Credit bureaus can quickly identify applications that use numbers taken from dead people by consulting the Social Security Administration's death index. Social Security numbers follow a logical pattern that includes a person's age and where he or she lived when the number was issued. Because the system is somewhat predictable, sellers can make educated guesses and find unused numbers using trial and error. A "clean" CPN is a number that has been validated as an active Social Security number and is not on file with the credit bureaus. The most likely source of such numbers is children and longtime prison inmates, experts said. Robert Damosi, an analyst with Javelin Strategy & Research, said the crime can come back to hurt children when they get older and seek credit for the first time, only to discover their Social Security number has been used by someone else. "Those are the numbers criminals want. They can use them several years without being detected," Damosi said. "There are not enough services that look at protecting the Social Security numbers or credit history of minors." Since the mortgage meltdown of 2008, banks have tightened lending policies, but many credit decisions are still based solely on credit scores provided by FICO Inc. and the three major credit unions: Experian, TransUnion and Equifax. Federal investigators say many businesses do not realize that a growing number of those credit scores are based on fraudulent information. "Lenders don't understand that when they pay money to go through a service, they may be receiving false information," Jensen said. "They think when they order the information from credit bureaus, it must be true." Without special scrutiny, credit profiles created with the scheme are not immediately distinguishable from other newly created, legitimate files. Investigators say the businesses clearly know they are selling Social Security numbers, but it's difficult to prove. The sellers use complex disclaimers that disavow illegal activity and warn customers against using their numbers in place of Social Security numbers. The businesses also instruct customers to provide false information when using the number to apply for credit. Customers are told to use their real name and date of birth, but to avoid listing any addresses or phone numbers they've used in the past. They're also told to avoid any other information that connects the new, clean credit profile with the old, damaged one. Craig Watts, a spokesman for credit reporting agency FICO Inc., said FICO has tools available for businesses to protect themselves from this type of fraud, but they are not cheap. And many lenders are slow to adopt FICO's new formulas, which are updated every few years. Some companies that sell the numbers have lavish, high-tech websites. Others run no-frills ads on sites like Craigslist. Jim Buckmaster, president and CEO of the San Francisco-based Craigslist, recently told the AP in an e-mail that there were "fewer than 200" classifieds on his site that used the word "CPN." Within an hour of that e-mail exchange, dozens of the ads in cities such as Las Vegas, Los Angeles and New York had been pulled from the site. Many were reposted the next day. An AP reporter called several of the sites, but got only recordings asking callers to leave a message with contact information. Experts say the fraud will be difficult to stop because it's so easily concealed and targets such vulnerable people. "This is an invisible crime, with invisible victims who don't have enough support out there to help them," said Linda Foley of the ID Theft Resource Center in San Diego.

August 13, 2010

Obese government workers in South Carolina can get stomach-shrinking surgery through the state health plan under a pilot program that starts in January 2011. The state director for employees' insurance program said Thursday the pilot will pay for the surgery for 100 people statewide on a first-come, first-serve basis. The plan will cover gastric-bypass or Lap-Band surgery for people who qualify. Lawmakers required the trial program and set aside more than \$2 million for it in the budget. They told the Budget and Control Board to create it as part of workers' benefits plan for 2011, which the board approved Thursday. Results will be studied to see if the surgeries lead to overall health savings. Almost two-thirds of South Carolina's residents are considered overweight or obese, according to state health officials.

August 18, 2010

Crews have finished repairing a water main that ruptured in downtown Greenville early Wednesday morning. The break happened near Laurens Road/Stone Avenue and Interstate 385 in downtown Greenville about 3 a.m. Police set up detours and barricades, keeping drivers who exit at Stone Avenue from I-385 headed to downtown from turning left. Crews from the Greenville Water System said that they are working to flush and refill the line. They said they hope to have traffic moving normally by 5 p.m.

August 19, 2010

Hundreds of people have been sickened in a salmonella outbreak linked to eggs in four states and possibly more, health officials said Wednesday as a company dramatically expanded a recall to 380 million eggs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working with state health departments to investigate the illnesses. No deaths have been reported, said Dr. Christopher Braden, a CDC epidemiologist involved in the investigation. Initially, 228 million eggs, or the equivalent of 19 million dozen-egg cartons, were recalled by the company Wright County Egg of Galt, Iowa. But that number was increased to nearly 32 million dozen-egg cartons. Minnesota, a state with some of the best food-borne illness investigators in the country, has tied at least seven salmonella illnesses to the eggs. Other states have seen a jump in reports of the type of salmonella. For example, California has reported 266 illnesses since June and believes many are related to the eggs. Colorado saw 28 cases in June and July, about four times the usual number. Spikes or clusters of suspicious cases have also been reported in Arizona, Illinois, Nevada, North Carolina, Texas and Wisconsin. Salmonella is the most common bacterial form of food poisoning. And the strain involved in the outbreak is the most common strain of salmonella, accounting for roughly 20 percent of all salmonella food poisonings. Unfortunately, current lab tests do not allow health officials to fingerprint this form of salmonella as precisely as other kinds of food-borne illness. So determining the size of a salmonella enteritidis outbreak is a little more challenging, Braden said. The Food and Drug Administration also is investigating. Much of the investigation so far has been centered on restaurants in California, Colorado, Minnesota and

North Carolina. They are not necessarily breakfast places - it's possible some got sick from eating a salad dressing that had a raw egg in it, or eating soup with an undercooked egg dropped in, Braden said. In North Carolina, a cluster of about 80 illnesses in April were linked to meringue-containing chocolate pie and banana pudding served at a Durham barbecue restaurant, health officials said. Eggs from Wright County Egg were linked to illnesses in the four states. The eggs were distributed around the country and packaged under the names Lucerne, Albertson, Mountain Dairy, Ralph's, Boomsma's, Sunshine, Hillandale, Trafficanda, Farm Fresh, Shoreland, Lund, Dutch Farms and Kemp. It wasn't immediately clear when the eggs were produced and distributed. The initial recall was issued last week. Eggs affected by the expanded recall were distributed to food wholesalers, distribution centers and food service companies in California, Colorado, Minnesota, Arkansas, Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Oklahoma, Oregon, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin. "We are undertaking this additional recall to further protect the safety of consumers - this voluntary measure is consistent with our commitment to egg safety, and it is our responsibility," Wright County Egg officials said in a statement Wednesday evening. In an earlier statement, company officials said the FDA is "on-site to review records and inspect our barns." The officials said they began the recall Aug. 13. The most common symptoms of salmonella are diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever within eight hours to 72 hours of eating a contaminated product. It can be life-threatening, especially to those with weakened immune systems. This form of salmonella can be passed from chickens that appear healthy. And it grows inside eggs, not just on the shell, Braden noted. Thoroughly cooking eggs can kill the bacteria. But health officials are recommending people throw away or return the recalled eggs.

August 19, 2010

It didn't take long for NASCAR's truck series to decide on returning to Darlington Raceway.. Track officials said that the Camping World Truck Series will run at Darlington on March 12. Last Saturday, Todd Bodine won the Too Tough To Tame 200 in the first truck race at Darlington in six years. Darlington officials said on Wednesday the trucks will be the only one of NASCAR's top three series running that weekend. Darlington had previously announced it would retain its Mother's Day weekend spot for NASCAR's Sprint Cup and Nationwide series.

August 20, 2010

The nationwide recall of tainted eggs expanded Friday as a second Iowa egg farm was linked to the ongoing investigation of a salmonella outbreak that has already sickened more than 1,000 people. Iowa's Hillandale Farms said Friday it was recalling its eggs after laboratory tests confirmed illnesses associated with them. The company did not say how many eggs were being recalled or if it is connected to Wright County Egg, another Iowa farm that recalled 380 million eggs earlier this week. An FDA spokeswoman said the two recalls are related. The strain of salmonella poisoning is the same strain linked to Wright County Egg. The eggs recalled Friday were distributed under the brand names Hillandale Farms, Sunny Farms, Sunny Meadow, Wholesome Farms and West Creek. The new recall applies to eggs sold between April and August. Hillandale said the eggs were distributed to grocery distribution centers, retail groceries and food service companies which service or are located in fourteen states, including Arkansas, California, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. CDC officials said Thursday that the number of illnesses related to the outbreak is expected to grow. That's because illnesses occurring after mid-July may not be reported yet, said Dr. Christopher Braden, an epidemiologist with the federal Centers for Disease Control. Almost 2,000 illnesses from the strain of salmonella linked to both recalls were reported between May and July, almost 1,300 more than usual, Braden said. No deaths have been reported. The CDC is continuing to receive information from state health departments as people report their illnesses. The most common symptoms of salmonella are diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever within eight hours to 72 hours of eating a contaminated product. It can be life-threatening, especially to those with weakened immune systems. The form of salmonella tied to the outbreak can be passed from chickens that appear healthy. And it grows inside eggs, not just on the shell, Braden noted. Thoroughly cooking eggs can kill the bacteria. But health officials are recommending people throw away or return the recalled eggs.\

August 30, 2010

A strong odor forced the closure of a Greenwood Post Office Monday, while officials worked to determine the cause. Harry Spratlin, spokesman for the United State Postal Service, said that on Friday, workers at the North Creek Boulevard office began complaining of irritation to their eyes, skin and throat. He said that several workers left early to seek medical attention. Spratlin said that air quality tests were performed over the weekend, but they did not reveal any cause of the smell. He said that a National Guard team was called in to conduct further tests. As a precaution, Spratlin said, officials closed the office Monday. He said that workers were on the back dock of the building sorting mail so that trucks could leave on time. Spratlin said that anyone who needs window service or needs to pick up their mail can go to the Magnolia Avenue Post Office. The North Creek Boulevard location will also be closed Tuesday, Spratlin said.

September 20, 2010

Congress is investigating whether Johnson & Johnson carried out a second secret recall of faulty pain relievers last year, as a major probe of a dozen J&J recalls escalates. In the first such recall, packets of possibly defective Motrin were quietly bought from stores across the U.S. in spring 2009. E-mails just released by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform show a contractor hired for that job wrote to colleagues that his company was considering a "similar but potentially larger recall for July involving Children's Tylenol" for J&J. It's still unknown whether that happened. "The facts we are uncovering in this investigation are extremely troubling," the committee chairman, Rep. Edolphus "Ed" Towns, D-NY, said Friday. "The American people still deserve answers about Johnson and Johnson's recall of more than 130

bottles of children's medicine and the phantom methods they have used in other cases to avoid recalls." Document searches and interviews by panel investigators point to a former J&J employee who claimed the first "phantom recall" in spring 2009 was approved by federal regulators, a person close to the committee's investigation told The Associated Press on Friday. However, that claim appears not to be true, said the source, who requested anonymity because the four-month-old investigation is continuing. Meanwhile, Johnson & Johnson said Friday it still has not decided whether the head of consumer products, Colleen Goggins, will testify at a committee hearing Sept. 30. Hours after the hearing was announced Thursday, J&J said Goggins, 56, will retire in March. CEO William Weldon, who sent Goggins in his stead to the committee's first hearing on May 27, will attend this one. E-mails released by the committee late Thursday include one written June 30, 2009, by a contractor, WIS International, hired to quietly buy up small containers of Motrin that might have the wrong potency. In discussing the possibility of a similar Children's Tylenol recall, the contractor wrote that his company "will look to explore next week the potential quantities in 400 geographically dispersed stores to 'assess' quantities on shelves" at grocery, drug, convenience and mass discount stores, the e-mail states. WIS was working as a subcontractor to a second company, Inmar Inc., specializing in product recalls, according to the committee source. The House committee investigators are still trying to determine whether that recall ever occurred, the source told the AP Friday. Spokespeople at the two contracting companies did not respond to AP requests for comment Friday. Since last September, J&J's McNeil Consumer Health Care, the maker of adult and children's Tylenol, Motrin, Benadryl and other nonprescription medicines, has had nine public recalls due to a variety of safety and effectiveness problems, including contamination with bacteria and with tiny metal shavings. One in April, involving more than 135 million bottles of infants' and children's Tylenol and other medicines, triggered the committee's investigation. J&J also has recalled contact lenses and hip implants this summer. Committee staff has learned that a man working at a J&J facility in Puerto Rico falsely told superiors last year that a female Food and Drug Administration staff member told him at a trade show that J&J could privately recall possibly defective packets of Motrin, said the source, who did not identify the man. By then, the man's claim, apparently accepted as true, had made it into an e-mail circulated among McNeil employees. FDA does not have the power to order a product recall, but generally works with companies planning one. "We have negotiated an agreement with FDA not to formally conduct a recall for Motrin" eight-tablet packages, reads a May 27, 2009, e-mail from McNeil executive Bob Miller to several colleagues. "It is now estimated that this will cost approx. \$400K which is approximately 2x that which was originally quoted." A response from colleague Peter Luther the same evening reads, "I hope we're not going to really double our cost to do this. Let's make this happen ASAP." The source said the committee repeatedly has asked J&J lawyers to produce evidence that the FDA allowed the silent recall, but none was included in the 25,000 pages of documents the company has turned over. In addition, a July 2009 memo from an FDA investigator in Puerto Rico to a McNeil executive, Carolyn Parziale, states FDA's "position is that your company should be doing a voluntary recall" of the Motrin. Investigator Neisa Alonso wrote that public recalls are typical when drugs fail to dissolve, which was the case with Motrin that was removed. That can affect potency. FDA spokeswoman Elaine Gansz Bobo said Friday the agency can't comment because its investigation continues. J&J would not discuss the latest disclosures by the committee, nor the positions of the executives listed in the e-mails. However, profiles on LinkedIn, a networking site for professionals, state that Parziale is director of quality assurance at McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals, Luther is president of that unit and Miller is a quality assurance expert who had been the unit's vice president of compliance. During her testimony before the House committee on May 27, Goggins, the consumer business head, said she knew little about the unannounced recall and said J&J was not trying to hide anything and was fixing the manufacturing problems. But officials at both WIS and Inmar, interviewed this summer by committee lawyers, told them - contrary to previous claims by J&J officials - the secret Motrin recall was directed entirely by J&J executives, the source said. In addition, documents J&J turned over after a request by Chairman Towns detail specific instructions McNeil provided on how the contractors should conduct the recall. That included orders to buy up all available supply and not to discuss it with personnel in the stores. Towns have introduced legislation that would give FDA the authority to order product recalls. The bill has not seen action yet.

September 23, 2010

Citizens of the world's richest countries are getting fatter and fatter and the United States is leading the charge, an organization of leading economies said Thursday in its first ever obesity forecast. Three out of four Americans will be overweight or obese by 2020, and disease rates and health care spending will balloon, unless governments, individuals and industry cooperate on a comprehensive strategy to combat the epidemic, the study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said. The Paris-based organization, which brings together 33 of the world's leading economies, is better known for forecasting deficit and employment levels than for measuring waistlines. But the economic cost of excess weight - in health care, and in lives cut short and resources wasted - is a growing concern for many governments. Franco Sassi, the OECD senior health economist who authored the report, blamed the usual suspects for the increase. "Food is much cheaper than in the past, in particular food that is not particularly healthy, and people are changing their lifestyles, they have less time to prepare meals and are eating out more in restaurants," said Sassi, a former London School of Economics lecturer who worked on the report for three years. That plus the fact that people are much less physically active than in the past means that the ranks of the overweight have swelled to nearly 70 percent in the U.S. this year from well under 50 percent in 1980, according to the OECD. In 10 years, a full 75 percent of Americans will be overweight, making it "the fattest country in the OECD," the report said. The same factors driving the epidemic in the U.S. are also at work in other wealthy and developing countries, Sassi said. "There is a frightening increase in the epidemic," Sassi said, "We've not reached the plateau yet." The lifespan of an obese person is up to 8-10 years shorter than that of a normal-weight person, the OECD said, the same loss of lifespan incurred by smoking. In the U.S. the cost in dollars of obesity, including higher health care spending and lost production, is already equivalent to 1 percent of the country's total gross domestic product, the report said. That compares to half a percent in other OECD countries, Sassi said. These costs could rise two- or threefold over the coming years, the OECD said, citing another study that forecast obesity and overweight-related health care costs would rise 70 percent by 2015 and could be 2.4 times higher than the current level in 2025. The OECD found that rates of obesity, defined as a body mass index above 30, show a wide variation across its member countries, ranging from as little as 3-4 percent of the population in Japan and Korea to around one-third in the U.S. and Mexico.

"However, rates are also increasing in these countries," the OECD said. Outside the OECD, obesity rates are rising at similarly fast rates in countries such as Brazil, China, India and Russia. The OECD advises governments on economic growth, social development and financial stability.

September 23, 2010

Abbott Laboratories created a website for parents and caregivers to check if their baby formula was affected by Wednesday's Similac recall. A convenient way to help consumers -- if the website would actually work for them. Families possibly affected by the recall swamped the company's website and phone hotline on Thursday, only to meet a dead end. The overwhelming surge of traffic resulted in busy phone lines and website problems, leaving parents frustrated by the company's lack of response. On Wednesday, Abbott Laboratories issued a recall of about 5 million cans of certain Similac-brand powdered infant formula, due to the possible presence of beetle larva. If ingested, the FDA said that this type of beetle could cause discomfort and irritate the gastrointestinal tract, making infants lose their appetite. Following the recall, Abbott (ABT, Fortune 500) established a 24/7 phone hotline and directed consumers to a website for more information, including the product lot numbers affected by the recall. Repeated attempts to access both services by CNNMoney have been mostly unsuccessful. It's a problem the company is aware of. "Both the website and our hotline have been increasing capacity ... there has been significant volume," said Melissa Brotz, spokeswoman for Abbott Laboratories. Users who are able to access the website are asked to enter the lot number listed on the product container. After being submitted, the website returns a verdict: Your Similac is either part of the recall or not. Raquel Powers, a spokeswoman for Abbott, said the company is trying to verify each lot number -- a process that is still ongoing. "We are [still] verifying the lot numbers," she said. "The recall is several thousand lots -- some of which vary by only one number -- and we don't want to confuse caregivers and parents." Once the affected lot numbers are verified, a full list of lot numbers will be released, Powers said. Getting all of the affected lot numbers out is a top priority for Abbott. However, it's not being done fast enough for some parents. **What parents are saying:** Christopher Justice, the father of an infant who has used Similac since birth, said Thursday that he was able to access the site -- but only after repeatedly trying on 3 or 4 computers in the early morning hours. "We were hitting with 3 to 4 devices and finally got through," he said. "And then after 8 to 10 minutes, we got a notice saying it's been recalled." But Justice is still worried, and upset that information wasn't more readily available. It's a problem that Jean Halloran, the director of food policy initiatives at Consumers Union, says is common. "It is often difficult to get good info in the early stages of the recall," Halloran said. "That is something I think is not acceptable, especially when you are dealing with an infant product." The company is doing something they don't do all the time," she adds. "But they have an obligation to devote adequate resources to getting information out." **UPDATE:** A spokesperson for Abbott later clarified that the company has verified all of the affected lot numbers, and is in the process of releasing additional information to the public. For information on the recall, Abbott said that parents and caregivers can go to www.similac.com/recall10 or call Abbott's consumer hotline, (800) 986-8850, for more information.

September 29, 2010

There is a new tech gadget that has got 'Star Wars' fans in a frenzy. It is called the R2-D2 and it is the newest Droid Smartphone from Verizon. Dozens of enthusiasts lined up outside of the Verizon store on Woodruff Road, where they hosted a 'Star Wars'-themed party, including a costume contest, video games and prizes. The biggest prize was the special edition Droid R2-D2 that one lucky person won. The phone features all the latest specs and capabilities, plus it has 'Star Wars' markings and widgets. "It's a limited edition phone with some call features," said Mike Medlin, of Verizon. "It's got some great apps and it's got a great camera on it. It's just a cool thing we can do for our customers." "We're getting recognition," said Michale Jarvis, a 'Star Wars' fan who took advantage of the party. "There's something intended just for Star Wars fans. I'm seeing a little bit of the capabilities of the apps packages. It looks really interesting." Only 290 phones were available to buy at the Woodruff Road store, with a limit of two per person.

September 2010

Fisher-Price is recalling more than 11 million tricycles, toys and high chairs over safety concerns. The Consumer Product Safety Commission said Thursday that the tricycles and high chairs were blamed for children's injuries. In the recall of about 7 million Fisher-Price Trikes and Tough Trikes toddler tricycles, the agency is aware of 10 reports of children being hurt. Six of them required medical attention. The trikes - some of which feature popular characters like Dora the Explorer and Barbie - have a protruding plastic ignition key near the seat that children can strike, sit on or fall on, leading to injuries that the commission said can include genital bleeding. Fisher-Price is also recalling more than 1 million Healthy Care, Easy Clean and Close to Me High Chairs, after 14 reports of problems. The pegs on the back of the high chairs can be used to store the tray, but children can fall on them, resulting in cuts and other injuries. Seven children required stitches, the commission said. CPSC Chairman Inez Tenenbaum said manufacturers need to do more to build safety into their products before they reach store shelves. But she also offered praise for Fisher-Price for "taking the right steps by agreeing to these recalls and offering consumers free repairs or replacement." Most of the products were being recalled in the United States, but about 400,000 of them were sold in Canada. The two other Fisher-Price recalls were: -More than 2.8 million Baby Playzone Crawl & Cruise Playground toys, Baby Playzone Crawl & Slide Arcade toys, Baby Gymnastics Play Wall toys, Ocean Wonders Kick & Crawl Aquarium toys, 1-2-3 Tetherball toys and Bat & Score Goal toys. The valve of the inflatable ball on the toys can come off and pose a choking hazard to children, said CPSC. The agency said there were more than 50 reports of the valves coming off the balls. -About 100,000 Fisher-Price Little People Wheelies Stand 'n Play Rampway toys. The wheels on the purple and green cars can come off, posing a choking hazard. Fisher-Price, based in East Aurora, N.Y., is a unit of Mattel Inc.

Consumers can visit the company's website at www.service.mattel.com for more information on the dates of sale and model numbers for the recalled products.

September 30, 2010

Greenlink, the Greenville-area bus service, will make changes to some of its routes and service hours on Saturday, the commuter service said Thursday. The new schedule features 11 routes, most of which will run from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The new route schedule is as follows:

- North Pleasantburg - Cleveland Park: 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- White Horse via Pendleton: 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Poinsett - Rutherford: 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Dunearn - Grove Road: 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Anderson - Grove Station: 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Haywood Mall via Laurens Road: 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- White Horse via Washington: 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Augusta Road - South Pleasantburg: 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Wade Hampton - Taylors: 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Overbrook - Pelham: 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Parker/Woodside - Blue Ridge: 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For more information about routes and schedules, visit the bus service's website at rid

Attachments



Crime

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **CRIME**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays	8:00pm	COPS
Saturdays (airs weekly)	8:30pm	COPS
Monday – Friday	1:00pm	COPS
Monday – Friday	1:30pm	COPS

Description: COPS follows law enforcement officers as they answer calls and deal with the subjects and victims involved in the complaints and crimes. (30:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	9:00pm	AMERICA'S MOST WANTED
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Description: AMERICA'S MOST WANTED is hosted by John Walsh. The show profiles fugitives and wanted criminals who are being sought by federal, state, or local authorities. The program gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. (60:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	2:30am	MISSING
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Description: Missing is a weekly half-hour reality series featuring actual cases of missing individuals, both adult and juvenile, from across the United States. (30:00)

Monday – Sunday	10:00 pm	FOX CAROLINA'S MOST WANTED
Monday – Friday	5:00a-9:00am	

Description: The FOX Carolina's Most Wanted airs during the Ten O'clock News on various nights Monday thru Sunday and The Morning News Monday thru Friday. Each segment profiles locally wanted criminals and gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. Each segment is 45 seconds.

July 6, 2010

A Greer farmer said that someone stole nearly 60 pounds of vegetables from her garden during the holiday weekend. The theft happened at a garden on Bennetts Bridge Road on Sunday. Spartanburg County deputies said that the farmer reported 40 pounds of tomatoes, 20 pounds of lima and butter beans, some cucumbers and some squash were stolen. The farmer told FOX Carolina that she has sold produce from her garden at her home for more than 10 years and this is the first time she has had any problems. Anyone with information was asked to call Spartanburg County Crime Stoppers at 58-CRIME.

July 7, 2010

Greenville police said that a FOX Carolina reporter helped them solve a recent theft. Police said that on June 20, a Bobcat skid steer was stolen from a construction site at 200 Carolina Point Parkway. Surveillance video showed two people loading the small tractor onto a truck and trailer and driving away. After the release of that video, a FOX Carolina reporter thought he recognized the vehicle in the surveillance video. The reporter contacted police told them that he believed the truck in the surveillance video appeared to be the same truck driven by the victim of a kidnapping in January. The information was forwarded to a detective investigating the Bobcat theft, police said. They said that the detective was able to identify the people involved in the theft based on that tip. Kevin Hill, 26, and Samantha Fletcher, 25, both of Clinton, were

charged with grand larceny more than \$10,000 in connection with the theft. The Bobcat was recovered a few days after the theft in Spartanburg, police said.

July 23, 2010

Pickens County deputies arrested and charged an Easley Couple with multiple counts of child neglect after finding five children living in squalor on Friday. Robert Allen Henderson Jr. and Angela Michelle Wardlaw both face five counts of unlawful neglect of a child, according to the arrest affidavit. Deputies said the couple was keeping five children -- ages 4, 8, 9, 13, and 14 -- in a filthy home on Hunts Bridge Road with no food and no working lights. According to the arrest report, the house was littered dog feces and urine from 19 dogs found in the residence, four of which were unresponsive. The report also stated that the toilets were filled with human waste and there was a large hole in the bathroom floor. The children have been placed in the custody of the South Carolina Department of Social Services. Henderson remains in jail on \$15,000 bond, but Wardlaw has been released.

August 10, 2010

Deputies are searching for a killer after a Hendersonville man was found dead Sunday night. A person called 911 at 9:33 p.m. and said a man was found seriously injured at 801 North Lakeside Drive. Investigators said that arriving deputies found 22-year-old Zachary Medford unconscious. They said Medford was rushed to Pardee Hospital, but he did not survive. Medford's death was ruled a homicide, but deputies would not say how he was killed. Anyone with information about Medford's death is asked to call Henderson County Crime Stoppers at 828-697-STOP.

August 12, 2010

An online tool is helping law enforcement across the country and right here in the Upstate. The nationwide database called "Leads Online" is able to track down stolen items. Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Tony Ivey said that the database is a partnership among law enforcement divisions and pawn shops. Ivey said that all pawn shop owners have to type in a seller's information from their driver's license and the serial number from the item into the database. He said it is a small task that helps authorities track down stolen goods. Ivey said that investigators will pay the pawn shop for the stolen property, but deputies will get their money back through the court system. He said that this method saves time, money, and helps recover stolen goods from all across the country. Residents can help law enforcement recover stolen items quicker by writing down the item's make, model and serial number, and by taking pictures of expensive items in their homes and cars, Ivey said. He also recommended people keep that information in a safe place.

August 13, 2010

Agents with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division are investigating after they said a white powdery substance was found inside a letter sent to U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's office. The letter was found Thursday at the South Carolina Republican senator's office on south Main Street, FOX Carolina News reported. SLED said it responded at the request of the FBI. Investigators said they do not think the substance in the letter is harmful, but it has been forwarded a lab run by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control for testing. Officials said Graham was not at the office Thursday.

August 18, 2010

The red evidence tape has been removed, yet the horror of what police say happened inside room 31 won't soon be forgotten. A South Carolina mother is accused of suffocating her two small children in the room, then strapping them into their car seats and driving the vehicle to a boat ramp, letting it roll into a river. "When we will see that room, we will just remember the children, how painful they must have been that night," motel owner Renuka Patel said. "How can she do that, to those children?" Patel spoke outside the Orangeburg courtroom where 29-year-old Shaquan Duley made her first appearance before a judge Wednesday. Duley, who is unemployed, told authorities she smothered the boys after a fight with her own mother, who she said constantly badgered her about her failures as a parent and inability to financially provide for her family. She initially told investigators the boys drowned after her car plunged into a river early Monday morning but later admitted she staged the scene. She has been remorseful, her attorney said. "She's tearful, as anybody would be under these circumstances," defense attorney Carl B. Grant said after a brief hearing. "She's been very sad, very remorseful about all of this stuff, all of the allegations." Orangeburg County Sheriff Larry Williams has said Duley expressed little remorse when she confessed to killing her two young sons, ages 2 years and 18 months. About 80 relatives, friends and curious onlookers attended Wednesday's hearing,

Duley's first court appearance since she was charged with two counts of murder. Her family has largely kept silent about her arrest, but before the hearing, her sister said she think Williams' portrayal of events has been fair. "I don't feel that he's dragging my sister through the mud," she said outside the home she shared with her mother, sister, niece and nephews. "I actually feel that he's speaking fairly compassionately on her part." Adriane Duley said her family has been too overwhelmed by the media attention to do day-to-day tasks such as taking out the trash or getting the mail, let alone grieving and planning two funerals. "I've had enough," she said. "My family needs their privacy." Shaquan Duley's mother, Helen Duley, told a Columbia television station that her daughter is a loving person who became overwhelmed. "There is a deep hurt. This is a very dark time in our lives," Helen Duley told WLTX-TV in Columbia. "I'm asking people not to judge her for what's she's done but to understand that we all have problems and we never know when things might get out of hand. That's why it's important not to keep things bottled up in you, but to let somebody know and out of this tragedy, we feel like somebody will be blessed because if you have a problem, please seek help." A date for a bail hearing has not been set, and Grant said he would wait until then to lay out more details of his client's case. "There's more to be said, but this is not the place to say it," said Grant, who was retained by Duley's family Tuesday and had not yet reviewed her confession. "I know the world wants to know, 'What happened with Shaquan Duley?' That will come out." Duley lived with her sons, a 5-year-old daughter and her mother in a rented home in Orangeburg. Out of work and estranged from the children's father, she relied on her mother for support. But after the two argued Sunday night, Williams said, Duley left her daughter at the house and drove 2-year-old Devean C. Duley and 18-month-old Ja'van T. Duley to a motel several miles away. Late that night, in a corner room tucked at the back of the rundown, one-story complex, Duley suffocated the boys with her hands, Williams said. She then strapped them back into their car seats, drove to a boat ramp some 10 miles away and rolled the car into the slow-moving water, investigators said. Funeral services for both boys will be Friday.

August 25, 2010

Police said that a woman robbed a Spartanburg bank Wednesday afternoon. The robbery happened at the Sun Trust Bank at 1742 E. Main St. at 1:27 p.m. Police said that a woman wearing black Capri pants, a blue, long-sleeved shirt, a blue, floppy hat and sunglasses walked into the bank and demanded money. They said that during the robbery, the woman threatened the teller. The woman placed the money in a black messenger bag and left the bank on foot, police said. The woman was described as black, 5 feet 4 inches tall and 180 pounds with long, black, curly hair, which appeared to be a wig, police said. Anyone with information about the robbery was asked to call Crime Stoppers at 888-CRIME-SC.

August 30, 2010

Deputies said that 27 people were charged during a prostitution sting last week in Greenville County. Investigators with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office said that undercover officers were used during the sting on Aug. 25. Deputies said that a majority of those charged approached undercover officers and offered sexual services in exchange for money. Twenty-one people were charged with prostitution, first offense, deputies said. They said that four people were charged with loitering to engage in prostitution, two people were charged with interfering with law enforcement, one person was charged with providing false information to police and one person was charged with second-degree assault and battery. Most were issued citations and ordered to appear in court on Sept. 22.

August 31, 2010

Anderson County deputies said they made an arrest in the 2005 murder of James Wells. Raymond Groves, 23, of Anderson, was arrested Monday and charged with murder and possession of methamphetamine. Groves is accused of shooting James Wells multiple times during an attempted robbery on Oct. 13, 2005, at a Chinese restaurant on the Highway 28 Bypass in Anderson County. Investigators said that Wells was picking up dinner for his family when he was killed. Wells' church offered a \$25,000 reward after he was killed for information leading to an arrest in the case. Deputies said that they linked Groves to the crime with witnesses and evidence found at the crime scene. Groves was denied bond during a hearing on Tuesday morning. His next court appearance will be before a Circuit Court judge.

September 15, 2010

Two men were arrested and faced criminal sexual conduct charges after police said they had sex with the same minor. Jason Christopher, 26, of Wellford, was charged with one count of criminal sexual conduct with a minor 11 to 14 years of age. Christopher also was charged with one count of neglect of a child or helpless person after police said he physically punished a minor who was his brother-in-law by marriage. James Register, 36, of Spartanburg, was charged with one count of criminal

sexual conduct with a minor 11 to 14 years of age. Register also was charged with two counts of neglect of a child or helpless person because police said he did not report or try to stop the sexual relations between the girl and the other man. Both men were in the Spartanburg County Detention Center on Saturday.

September 17, 2010

A Clemson University student is charged with homicide by child abuse in the October 2009 death of his girlfriend's 16-month-old daughter. The State Law Enforcement Division said 25-year-old Richard Brandon Lewis was arrested Friday on campus. He has also been charged with aiding and abetting homicide by child abuse in the months leading up to his the baby's death. Audrina Hepburn died several days after she was admitted to a hospital for brain injuries. The girl's mother, Ashley Nicole Hepburn, is charged with murder. It was not immediately clear if Lewis had an attorney. Jail officials said he would have a bond hearing Saturday morning. Clemson officials said that Lewis is a junior majoring in turf grass management.

September 20, 2010

One Spartanburg County teacher resigned Monday and another was fired over allegations of sex, drugs and alcohol at parties with students at their homes during the summer. Deputies said that 44-year-old Audrey Grabarkiewicz and 42-year-old Sarah Lindsay were charged after a parent complained in July. Investigators said that the women provided the drugs and alcohol to students, who sources told FOX Carolina were 14 to 17 years old. Lindsay was charged with nine counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. She was also charged with criminal sexual conduct with a minor, because deputies said she had sex with one of the underage students on multiple occasions. Grabarkiewicz was charged with 10 counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Deputies said Grabarkiewicz also had sex with a student, but because he was 16 or older, she was not charged with a crime. Lindsay, who has taught 4K at Boiling Spring Elementary School since August 2005, resigned, according to Spartanburg County District 2. Grabarkiewicz, who taught at Lake Bowen Baptist Church's day care when the alleged parties happened, was dismissed as an employee of the church, according to a letter found at the day care Monday afternoon. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story

September 27, 2010

Greenville County deputies said they are searching for a man who shot two people in the span of about two weeks. Investigators said that 33-year-old Wilbert Todd is wanted in connection with the shooting of a man during a robbery on Sept. 26 and another shooting during an armed robbery on Sept. 10. The latest robbery happened at 22 Dempsey St., deputies said. They said a man was shot in the stomach after he and Todd got into an argument while playing cards. They said Todd pointed a gun at the man, took his money and some personal items and then shot him. The victim was taken to Greenville Memorial Hospital, where he was listed in stable condition. Deputies said that the previous robbery happened on Sept. 10 at a home on 10th Street in the Judson neighborhood. They said that Todd was talking to a man about buying some dogs from him. They said that Todd then pulled out a gun and fired, hitting the man in the arm. Todd is wanted on two counts of armed robbery, two counts of attempted murder and possession of a weapon during a violent crime. Anyone with information about Todd's whereabouts is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 23-CRIME.

September 29, 2010

Anderson County deputies said that a man and woman are stealing vehicles by taking them on test drives, never to return. Deputies said they are investigating several auto-theft cases that have happened on the south side and west side of Anderson. Investigators said that in each case, a man and woman target vehicles that have been advertised as "for sale." They said that in all the cases, the pair would make contact with the vehicle's owner and schedule a test drive. The cars were never returned after the test drive, they said. The pair was described as African-American between 25 and 40 years old. Anyone with information about the thefts was asked to call the Anderson County Sheriff's Office at 864-260-4400.

September 29, 2010

Police are crediting a 7-year-old girl's older brother with keeping her safe after they said a man tried to kidnap her Monday morning. Investigators said that the girl told her bus driver on Tuesday that a man had tried to get her into his car at her bus stop the day before. Police said they talked to the girl and her 9-year-old brother, who was also at the bus stop, located at the corner of East Whitner Street and Hudgens Street. The pair told police that the man walked up behind the girl, tapped her on the shoulder and asked if she wanted a ride. The girl's brother then told his sister to run, and the pair took off. Police said that when the children ran away, the man jumped into his car and fled. The man was described as white, with a thin build, in his

20s, wearing a black hoodie, black sneakers and a black bandanna around the lower part of his face. Police said he was last seen driving a black sport utility vehicle, possibly a mid-'90s Jeep Cherokee. The brother told police he had seen the man in the area several times, but had never seen him stop at the bus stop before. Anyone with information about the attempted kidnapping was asked to call Anderson County Crime Stoppers at 231-STOP.

September 30, 2010

Anderson County deputies charged a man with attempted kidnapping after they said he tried to lure a teen into his car Wednesday morning. Deputies said they were called to Twin Lakes Court at 7:41 a.m. Wednesday after getting a call about a man who tried to get a 14-year-old girl into his car. They said the girl was at a school bus stop when the man pulled up in a small sport utility vehicle and tried to convince her to get inside. They said that the man then drove away when the girl refused and called her parents on her cell phone. Investigators said the vehicle and man matching the victim's description were located a few minutes later just down the street. They said that the SUV had been reported stolen three days before. In addition to the attempted kidnapping charge, Roger Powell was charged with use of a vehicle without the owner's consent, unlawful possession of a pistol and giving false information to police. Powell was being held at the Anderson County Detention Center while he awaits a bond hearing.

September 30, 2010

The defense team for Edwardo Wong has called for a mistrial Thursday for the third time since the trial over the death of a North Carolina state trooper began. Wong is accused of killing Trooper Shawn Blanton during a June 2008 traffic stop. The defense called for a mistrial after Wong told the judge he almost ran into some of the jurors in the hallway. He said that one of the deputies guarding him spun him around and almost made him fall. Attorneys for Wong said that jurors seeing him being guarded by as many as five deputies and being spun around may prejudice them against him. The prosecution objected to the defense's motion. The judge questioned jurors about the incident. He said that jurors said they did not see Wong in shackles and that he was only being escorted by no more than two bailiffs, which is something they have seen since the trial began. The judge denied the defense's motion. On Wednesday, Wong showed jurors a scar on his face that the defense said he suffered when he fell from a five-story building at 4 years old. They were also shown Wong's report cards, showing his grades got worse as he got older. "It is quite common for people who experienced traumatic brain injury to put themselves in more risky situations that could result in even more brain injuries," said Dr. Shaun Acheson, a neuropsychologist and defense witness. If convicted, Wong faces the death penalty.

Attachments



Education

PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED

THIRD QUARTER 2010

Problem/Need: **EDUCATION**

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM
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August 2, 2010

South Carolina schools chief is proud of the progress some schools made toward reaching federal education goals this year. But State Superintendent Jim Rex warned the "adequate yearly progress" benchmarks under the federal No Child Left Behind increase dramatically next year, meaning schools that show marked improvement will still be labeled as falling behind. Data released Monday by the state Education Department shows South Carolina had 29 more elementary and middle schools meet the law's myriad of standardized testing benchmarks split among racial and economic factors. Thirteen of 184 high schools met all their AYP goals, the same total as last year, while three school districts – Anderson 2, Greenwood 52 and Lexington 3 -- met their goals.

August 12, 2010

The University of South Carolina's largest-ever freshman class will arrive later this week. The State newspaper of Columbia reported Thursday this year's freshman class is nearly 500 students larger, for a class of about 4,400 students. That could bring the school up to \$3.5 million in additional revenue. The university accepted more students partly to fill a hole caused by state budget cuts. Officials say more students than expected then took the school up on its offer. Last year, there were 3,900 freshman. Four years ago, the freshman class consisted of fewer than 3,700 students. Freshman are required to live on campus. That means more upperclassmen must find housing off campus.

August 18, 2010

South Carolina's graduating seniors improved their scores on the ACT college entrance exam, while the national average slipped. The average score for the Class of 2010 was 20 on a 36-point scale. That's up from 19.8 last year, and half a point increase over five years. South Carolina is one point below the national average of 21. Last year's gap was 1.3 points. Massachusetts had the highest average score at 24. Mississippi fared the worst at 18.8. Eighteen percent of South Carolina's test-takers met college readiness benchmarks in the four core subjects. Nearly 20,000 public and private school graduates took the ACT, just over half of the students who graduated. Both the ACT and SAT are accepted by most colleges. The SAT has historically been more popular in South Carolina, but ACT participation has grown.

August 18, 2010

North Carolina's top prosecutor said that criminal cases may be reopened following an investigation that found state crime lab analysts omitted, overstated or falsely reported blood evidence. Attorney General Roy Cooper said Wednesday that prosecutors and defense attorneys need to review the cases to see if more work needs to be done. The statement came after the review by two former FBI officials found 190 flawed cases, including the murder of Michael Jordan's father and three that ended in executions. The

report also calls for changes at the State Bureau of Investigation crime lab. The review does not say there were wrongful convictions. Cooper ordered the review after the exoneration of a longtime convict.

August 19, 2010

As the school year begins, so does the homework season. But homework doesn't just involve students – parents also should play a role. According to the U.S. Department of Education, parents should assist their children in daily homework by making sure they have a quiet, well-lit place to complete their assignments. Parents should also make sure their child has all of the materials he or she needs to complete their homework and they should also help them manage their time to make sure assignments get completed on time. The U.S. Department of Education also tells parents to know when to help and when to watch. It recommends that parents guide their child without giving them the answers. It also says that when a child brings home an assignment that requires parental involvement, make sure you participate. It's also important to encourage your child while they do their homework, the U.S. Department of Education says. It suggests to praise your child for good work and to also be aware of their frustration level or when they are struggling to understand an assignment. The U.S. Department of Education also recommends staying in touch with your child's teacher so you know what the assignments are and what they are meant to teach. The U.S. Department of Education also offers specific tips on aiding your child with reading and math homework. When working on reading, the U.S. Department of Education suggests having your child read to you aloud every night in a quiet place free from distractions. As they read, point out their mistakes and help them to read it correctly. When they make a mistake, have them re-read the entire sentence, including the new word. The U.S. Department of Education also recommends working with your child on their reading comprehension skills as you read together. To do this, ask your child to give a brief summary of what he or she just read. Also ask questions about the characters in the story and have them make predictions as to what they think will happen next. One of the most frustrating subjects for children to learn can be math. To help ease the difficulty, the U.S. Department of Education recommends that parents check in with their child every night to see what homework assignment they have so that you stay current on what material they are learning. When helping your child with an assignment, the U.S. Department of Education suggests that you guide your child using the format his or her teacher has taught them, as shortcuts and new methods could just confuse them further. It is also recommended that parents stay in contact with teachers so they know how their child is doing in class and that they arrange for afterschool tutoring sessions when needed

August 20, 2010

The South Carolina Highway Patrol is investigating after a car crashed into a Spartanburg County District One school bus. Officials said three students were aboard the bus in the Oak Grove community in Greenville County when a car swerved into the path of the bus, hitting the bus on the front left bumper. The bus driver was taken to a nearby hospital for evaluation, and the driver of the car was taken to Spartanburg Regional Medical Center by ambulance. Both are expected to be recover, officials said. Paramedics at the scene checked over the students, but all were released to their parents injury-free. The investigation remains ongoing.

August 20, 2010

Police said that two students were hurt in a school bus crash in Anderson on Friday morning. The crash happened at the intersection of Murray and Market streets. Anderson Police Sgt. Tony Tilley said that the bus from Anderson County School District 5 was traveling from Westside High School to an extension campus when the crash happened. Tilley said the bus was headed east on Market Street when a driver traveling south on Murray Street disregarded the light at the intersection and broadsided the bus. Two students on board the bus were taken to AnMed Health and treated for non-life-threatening injuries, Tilley said. No charges have been filed in the crash.

August 24, 2010

Participating in extracurricular activities is a great way for a high-school student to get involved, as well as a great way to challenge yourself. It also looks good on college and job applications, showing admissions officers and potential employers you're responsible as well as well-rounded. Extracurricular activities can be team sports such as basketball, baseball, track, gymnastics or tennis. They can also include language club, debating team, student government, yearbook, choir, jazz band and computer club, just to name a few. They can range from school-offered activities to community and church groups. Although there are plenty of extracurricular options available, how many is too many for a high school student? Grades Are Important: According to Collegeboard.com, extracurricular activities can give you an edge if you're trying to get into college, as college admissions are getting more competitive every year. But the most important criteria to college admission boards are a student's transcript and test scores. Extracurricular activities demonstrate a student's other important qualities such as responsibility, ability to work with others and personal commitment. Moderation Key: Extracurricular activities may be valuable to a student's getting in to college, but just remember that more isn't necessarily better. These activities should be done in moderation. Participating in too many can cut into a student's study time and potentially hurt his or her chances of being accepted at more competitive colleges. Make The Most Of It: Colleges look for students who bring unique skills and diverse interests to their student body. Yet admission officials are more likely to consider a student who's shown commitment to one or two extracurricular activities instead of a candidate who's involved in too many activities. The student should emphasize quality, not quantity. Your child can make the most of extracurricular activities by: Making academics a priority: Committing to just one or two activities that really interest him or her. Pursuing a service-based activity — you can show commitment to your community and explore potential careers at the same time How Much Is Too Much?: There is a smorgasbord of activities, and they all look appetizing. But if your eyes are bigger than your stomach, you may fill up your plate too fast with too much. Before you join any activity, review your class schedule, work schedule, and other activities, and then determine if what you want to do is realistic. You need to ask yourself if you have enough time to study. And don't forget to include eating, sleeping and relaxing. It's not worth it to be involved in an activity that adds more stress to your life. It's OK To Say No: If you've joined an activity (or two or three) and you're feeling stressed out, overwhelmed or tired, it's time to reconsider. It's vital to find and keep a balance among schoolwork, extracurricular activities, a job, social life and your health. A lack of sleep diminishes skills needed for academic success such as attention, organization, creative thinking, efficiency, even motivation. If you've decided to quit a particular activity, talk with the adviser or coach and explain your situation and feelings. It might not be the right match or simply too time-consuming. Sometimes saying "no" is the most responsible thing you can do

August 25, 2010

Eric Robertson, a 21-year-old Presbyterian College junior and Summerville native, has not been seen in two days, police said Wednesday. One of Robertson's classmates said he was concerned about the man's disappearance. "It might be nothing or it might be something serious," the classmate said. "We played at the Train Depot last night in Clinton, but he just didn't show." Detectives said when no one could reach Robertson, his mother called campus police. Now, Clinton Public Safety is trying to find him. "Around 11 p.m. Monday is when he was last seen on campus," said Clinton Public Safety Director Stacy Drakeford. "The real major concern for us is that Mr. Robertson has some real major medical issues." Drakeford said that investigators searched Robertson's dorm room and car, but did not find anything suspicious. He said officers also searched three miles of a wooded area surrounding the school. "Since his vehicle was located on campus then it's one or two ways; somebody came and picked him up or he went to walking," Drakeford said. Those who know Robertson well said they just hope he is alright. Police are also getting help from the State Law Enforcement Division, the Laurens Police Department and the Laurens County Sheriff's Office. Anyone with information about Robertson's whereabouts was asked to call Clinton Public Safety.

August 31, 2010

Members of the Cherokee County School Board voted to hire a new interim superintendent Monday night. They hired Dr. Ed Taylor, who retired in 2009 as superintendent of Laurens County Schools, District 55. The vote was not unanimous, however. Three of the board's nine members, Billy Blackwell, Robin Harper and Cheryll Smith, did not go into executive session to talk to the three candidates. They said they are concerned with the district's finances because interim superintendent Kim Bagwell is already getting paid. In June 2010, board members voted for Bagwell to become the interim superintendent for the 2010-2011 school year. Bagwell signed a contract in July, and now some are concerned that taxpayers will have to pay both salaries. Taylor told FOX Carolina he will start work Wednesday as the district's new interim superintendent. School board member Billy Blackwell said he does not agree with how the meeting was conducted. He said board members have not given a reason to dismiss Bagwell as interim superintendent. "It was less than a month ago that nine board members voted in full support of her for a year," Blackwell said. "It's wrong to do this to anyone." Board member Cheryll Smith said she also disagrees with the decision. "It's not about the politics," Smith said. "It's about these children, and I stand for them." Some who came to the meeting were upset that they weren't allowed to speak and were not told who the three candidates were. Some said that's against the law. "We as citizens have felt that we've sat back long enough," said Tracy Parris, who attended the meeting. "It's time for us to take a role and demand that we have accountability here in our school district, and have answers to the reasons things are being done the way they're being done." Parris said he is passing around a petition asking for a forensic audit of the board's finances. The district said that once a permanent superintendent is found, Kim Bagwell will become director of personnel.

September 22, 2010

Police in Horry County said they disarmed and removed several pipe bombs they found in a high school after a freshman confronted an on-campus officer and fired a gun before being taken into custody. Police said they also found items "consistent with the construction of pipe bombs and other incendiary devices" at the student's Myrtle Beach home. Prosecutor Greg Hembree said that the 14-year-old student has not been identified because of his age. He is expected to appear in Family Court, possibly as early as Friday. About 1,400 students at Socastee High School in the northeastern part of the state were evacuated to a

football field after the confrontation Tuesday. Students returned to school Wednesday after walking through metal detectors. Horry County authorities said that the school resource officer was treated and released from a hospital after being injured after a bullet that the student fired struck a wall.

September 23, 2010

Tickets for the Travelers Rest homecoming dance went on sale this week, but not every student will get to attend the event. The school's website said tickets would be sold for \$10 on a first-come-first-served basis. More than 1,000 people attend the school, but Principal Lou Lavelly said space for the dance is limited to 400 people because of the size of the venue where the Oct. 2 dance will be held -- the Hyatt in Downtown Greenville. Some students said they are disappointed they will not be able to attend the dance. Some said they already bought dresses and shoes, hoping they'd be able to go, only to find out there were not enough tickets to go around. "I got a \$200 dress," said Toni Burleson, a 10th-grader at Travelers Rest High School. "I was so looking forward to going to homecoming. I was so close to getting a ticket, and there was 80 people behind me." Lavelly said students were warned ahead of time there was limited space, but he understands their disappointment. "We certainly understand the students' and the parents' disappointment," Lavelly said. "We will make every effort to make sure this does not happen in the future." Lavelly said the venue was booked over the summer.

September 23, 2010

Greenville County Schools officials said that a student was suspended Thursday after he brought a pellet gun to school. Oby Lyles, spokesman for the school district, said that the Woodmont High School student brought the unloaded gun to school in his book bag. He said that when the student opened the bag outside the school Thursday morning, a teacher saw it and contacted authorities. Lyles said that the pellet gun was confiscated. Per school policy, the student was immediately suspended, pending further review, Lyles said. The student's name was not released.

September 26, 2010

Federal money to train teachers is heading to South Carolina. The Palmetto State received a \$47 million grant. The grant will build on the state's Teacher Advancement Program that was started back in 2006. The state Education Department said it's the third time in four years that South Carolina has received federal money to train teachers and principals in hard-to-staff areas. South Carolina also received \$7 million for the program back in 2007.

September 27, 2010

Clemson University is restricting activities of fraternities and sororities because of concerns about alcohol arrests. Multiple media outlets reported the restrictions come after a meeting between students and Clemson vice president for student affairs Gail DiSabatino. DiSabatino said the restrictions are regrettable, but necessary for student safety. The statement issued Sunday did not provide details of alcohol arrests. School officials said sororities and fraternities will be able to participate in homecoming week activities such as Tigerama skits and working on parade floats this week. The leaders of Clemson's fraternities and sororities issued a statement saying the restrictions come because of the problem of underage drinking, alcohol abuse and unsafe pledging activities.

September 27, 2010

Three Greenville County students will be recommended for expulsion after gun-related incidents at two different schools Monday. Parents of students attending Greenville High School and Tanglewood Middle School will be notified of the incidents through the School Messenger system, Greenville County Schools spokesman Oby Lyles said in a release. While guns were seen in both instances, no shots were fired. A Greenville High School student was seen waving a handgun out of a car window as he passed a bus stop in the Judson community, Lyles said. Students at the bus stop notified administrators as soon as they got to school. A school resource officer searched the student suspected of waving the gun and the car's driver as soon as they arrived at Greenville High, Lyles said. No weapon was found, but an investigation continues. Both students were suspended. The student accused of waving the gun will be recommended for expulsion, Lyles said. The case has been turned over to the sheriff's department, because the bus stop was not in the city limits. At Tanglewood Middle School, administrators retrieved two Airsoft plastic guns from a student's locker after a school resource officer found packaging in a trash can. Two students were suspended in that case and will be recommended for expulsion, Lyles said.

September 29, 2010

A West-Oak High School student was arrested earlier this week after a gun was found in his backpack, Oconee County deputies said. The 14-year-old student, whose identity was not released because of his age, was charged with possession of a weapon on school property. School officials said that another student told school leaders about the weapon, which led to the discovery. Deputies said the student was being held at the juvenile detention facility, where he awaits a family court hearing. The recommended punishment for violation of the law is a one-year expulsion.

Attachments



Environment

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **ENVIRONMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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July 6, 2010

The East Coast broiled under an unforgiving sun Tuesday as the temperature soared above 100 degrees in several cities, utility companies cranked out power to cool the sweating masses and the unlucky sought any oasis they could find. The temperature hit 100 degrees by the afternoon in Philadelphia, which hadn't seen weather that hot in nine years. The reading toppled a record of 98 for the day set in 1999 and matched mid-afternoon readings Tuesday in New York City, Newark, N.J., and Washington. After an extended Fourth of July weekend when temperatures inched into at least the 90s from Maine to Texas, The National Weather Service issued heat advisories until Wednesday night for much of the Northeast and mid-Atlantic, including an excessive heat warning for the Philadelphia area. With people cranking up their air conditioning, energy officials predicted near-record demand for power. "It will be a challenge," said New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, although utilities and regional electrical system operators cited ample generation capacity and expected no major blackouts. Just a smattering of power failures were reported. Even so, those without air conditioning were left to cope as they could. On the baking streets of the Bronx, 14-year-old Miguel Pena and 13-year-old Vincent Quiles walked their bicycles up a steep hill, white handkerchiefs around their heads to keep the sweat out of their eyes. "Man, this stinks," Miguel said. "We just got out of school and this is supposed to be when we have fun, but this is too much. We thought it would be cooler on the bike, but now we're going home. It's just too hot." Added Vincent: "You can't breathe out here." Authorities in some places Tuesday began calling the hot stretch a heat wave, a phenomenon defined by at least three consecutive days of temperatures of 90 or above. New Jersey's largest city, Newark, handily beat that threshold, hitting 100 for the third day in a row. It was so hot that even machines had to slow down. Transportation officials cut the speed of commuter trains in suburban Washington when the tracks got too hot because extreme heat can cause welded rails to bend under pressure. Workers at the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, N.J., used tubs of ice cubes to help four sick or weak seals keep cool. It wasn't much easier on animal lovers. In Massachusetts, Katie Wright was determined to follow through on her promise to take her children to a zoo. "It's pretty ridiculous," Wright said as her 3-year-old son Jackson and 2-year-old daughter Emery watched owls and hawks at the Massachusetts Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary in Lincoln. "But we wanted to get out, so we brought hats, sunscreen, extra water and then promised the kids lunch at an air-conditioned restaurant." At his Manhattan newsstand, a steel kiosk that soaks up sun like a sponge, vendor Sam Doctor said the only way to keep cool was to splash his head with water, but he acknowledged that his system wouldn't last. Both of his soda-cooling refrigerators had already conked out by midmorning. "When it's 100 degrees out there, it's 110 in here," he said, still smiling as he served customers. In Philadelphia, where the temperature was in the 80s before 7 a.m., 45-year-old Davey Adams waited in a subway station that was stagnant even before the morning commute began in earnest. He had spent the weekend in air-conditioned bliss at his son's house in New Jersey but had to return to his job Tuesday as a forklift driver in a warehouse. He said he planned to use "cold water and a washcloth" draped over his head to keep cool. In New York, 13 firefighters were treated at a hospital after suffering dehydration and exhaustion while battling a blaze in Queens. The 42-year-old lieutenant governor of Massachusetts spent Monday night in a hospital after marching in five parades in 90-degree heat. Deaths blamed on the heat included a 92-year-old Philadelphia woman whose body was found Monday and a homeless woman found lying next to a car Sunday in suburban Detroit. In Washington, where the thermometer climbed to 100 degrees by mid-afternoon, President Barack Obama warned reporters about to leave the Oval Office: "Stay cool out there. Hydrate." Even the queen of England, a familiar visitor to exotic and steamy places, may find summertime on the East Coast a grueling experience. The 84-year-old monarch landed in New York during the hottest part of the day on her visit to the city in more than three decades; she planned to address the United Nations and pay tribute to the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. The hot air is "sitting over the top of us, and it's not really going to budge much for the next day or two," said Brian Korta, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Camp Springs, Md. After that, he said, a system coming in off the Atlantic Ocean would bring in cooler weather. In downtown Philadelphia, pedestrians and drivers appeared to move a little more slowly in the heat, which combined high humidity with clear sunny skies that made sidewalks hot and asphalt sticky. Robert McCarron, 44, wore a navy suit and tie as he walked four blocks from a downtown subway station to an office building where he was due for a job interview. "If I was going to a job, you'd better believe I wouldn't be wearing a suit," he said. "This is rough, and it's only going to get hotter."

July 6, 2010

Forecasters said that the heat is coming back to South Carolina after a brief reprieve over the holiday weekend. Several places across the state enjoyed near-record lows in the 60s at the start of the Independence Day holiday weekend. But the high pressure system that brought the cool weather has moved east, bringing heat and humidity back. By Wednesday, highs should be in the upper 90s in most of the state. The humidity will be rising, making it feel several degrees hotter. The summer has started out hot. Columbia, North Charleston and Greenville all recorded their warmest or second warmest June in decades.

July 12, 2010

After storms dumped heavy rain and hail on parts of the area Sunday, more strong storms are forecast for the western Carolinas on Monday. Several viewers called FOX Carolina on Sunday evening and reported some minor flash flooding and small hail in many of the storms that developed. Viewer video showed water rushing down steps in parking lot, while some pictures showed small hail piling up in a yard. The nasty weather also suspended the Greenville Drive baseball game against the Hagerstown Suns in the fourth inning on Sunday night. The game will resume at 11 a.m. Monday at Flour Field. There were no reports of major damage with Sunday's storms. Power outages appear to be minimal, as well. According to Duke Energy's website, the utility is working to restore power to 180 customers in northwestern Henderson County in North Carolina. More than 120 customers were without power in Greenville County, according to the website. FOX Carolina meteorologist Alexandra Wilson said that there is a 60 percent chance of storms in the Upstate on Monday afternoon. She said the chance for storms in the mountains is a bit higher at 70 percent. "A very moist air mass, and a nearby frontal boundary are providing the high chance of showers and storms today," Wilson said in her post on the FOX Carolina Weather blog. "While we're not under any kind of enhanced severe risk today, like yesterday, any storms could be strong or severe." Wilson said that there are decent chances for rain all week long, with the best chances on Monday and Tuesday. The rain is needed, however. Last week, South Carolina officials voted to place the entire state in the first level of the state's drought monitor. North Carolina officials also said last week that crops in the western part of the state are showing signs of drought stress. The National Weather Service said that Greenville is nearly 4 inches below normal precipitation for the year. The weather service said that Asheville is nearly 2 inches below normal for the year.

July 14, 2010

The National Weather Service said that there were at least three tornado touchdowns in South Carolina during a series of severe storms. The weather service said Tuesday that three weak tornadoes touched down in the central part of the state on Monday, taking down trees and damaging nearly three dozen homes. The tornadoes were spawned by a system of thunderstorms that moved across the state with high winds and heavy rains. The weather service said more than 2 inches of rain fell in Sumter County, about 40 miles east of Columbia, and more than an inch and a half in Florence County farther to the east.

July 23, 2010

On one of the hottest days of the year, thousands of customers were left without power Thursday afternoon, Duke Energy said. A spokesman for the utility company said that four circuits failed because a squirrel got stuck in a substation and blew the power. The company's website originally said that 7,086 customers were without power at 3:30 p.m. Just before 4 p.m., that number dropped to 2,894. That number decreased to only 2 by 8:45 p.m. Sgt. Jason Rampey, of the Greenville Police Department, said that the outage affected traffic signals at some of the busiest intersections of Greenville's east side. He said that officers were staffing as many of the darkened intersections as possible to help manage traffic flow. Duke Energy said that it appears a squirrel got stuck in a substation, which led to the power outage. The outage came on a day when forecasters said temperatures will climb to near 100 degrees. The National Weather Service issued the heat advisory for Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens and Union counties in South Carolina, and Elbert County in Georgia. The advisory is in effect from noon until 7 p.m. Thursday. FOX Carolina chief meteorologist Kendra Kent said that the mercury will top out in the middle and upper 90s in the Upstate with dew points in the low 70s. She said that the heat index, or how the temperature feels to one's skin, will climb to 105 degrees in some places. Kent said that Friday through the weekend will be even hotter with highs for the entire Upstate in the upper 90s and high humidity once again. In the mountains, Kent said, temperatures will top out near 90 degrees Thursday and in the low 90s over the weekend. The weather service said that residents should drink plenty of water, stay in the air conditioning as much as possible and check on relatives and neighbors to ensure they are coping well with the heat. Better chances for rain move into the area next week, Kent said. She said that the system bringing the rain will also cool down the temperatures a bit, but they will still remain above average.

August 2, 2010

A new federal study of chemical dispersants used to break up oil in the Gulf of Mexico shows that when mixed with oil, the dispersant is less toxic to aquatic life than oil alone. The study also shows that when mixed with oil, the dispersant used in the Gulf, Corexit 9500A, is no more or less toxic than oil mixtures with other chemical dispersants approved for use in oil spills. The Environmental Protection Agency released the study results Monday as the Obama administration defended itself against assertions that officials allowed oil giant BP to use excessive amounts of chemical dispersants whose threat to sea life remains unknown. Congressional investigators charge that the Coast Guard routinely approved BP requests to use thousands of gallons per day of Corexit despite a federal directive to use the chemical sparingly. The Coast Guard approved 74 waivers over a 48-day period after the Environmental Protection Agency order, according to documents reviewed by the investigators. Only in a small number of cases did the government scale back BP's request. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said in a statement that officials have long acknowledged use of dispersants presents environmental trade-offs. The agency took steps to ensure that other response efforts were used instead of dispersants and dramatically cut dispersant use in late May, she said. Dispersants were last used July 19, four days after a temporary cap was placed on the leaking Macondo well, and dispersant use dropped by 72 percent from peak volumes following a joint EPA-U.S. Coast Guard directive to BP in late May, Jackson said. Paul Anastas, EPA assistant administrator for research and development, said he was surprised to learn that the mixture of dispersant and oil was about the same toxicity as the oil alone. That result shows that use of the dispersant "seems to be a wise decision, and that the oil itself is the hazard that we're concerned about," Anastas said. He called the oil that spewed into the Gulf for nearly three months "Enemy No. 1." While the chemical dispersant was effective at breaking up the oil into small droplets so that it could be more easily consumed by bacteria, the long-term effects to aquatic life are unknown. That environmental uncertainty has led to several spats between BP and the government over the use of dispersants on the water's

surface and deep underwater when oil was spewing out of the well. Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., said more than 1.8 million gallons of toxic dispersants were used to break up the oil as it came out of the well and after it reached the ocean surface.

August 27, 2010

While Hurricane Danielle lurks about 2,000 miles off the coast of the Carolinas, it will have a direct impact on the beaches in both states. The National Weather Service said Danielle will create the threat of rip currents from the Outer Banks to Charleston beginning Friday. Forecasters said that swells from Danielle will reach the coastline by Friday and increase throughout the weekend. They said that will lead to a threat of strong rip currents well into next week. Danielle developed a well-defined eye and had maximum sustained winds Thursday near 110 mph. To the east of Danielle is Tropical Storm Earl, which is expected to become a hurricane by early Saturday.

August 30, 2010

Officials in South Carolina's capital city are turning one man's trash into a treasure of sorts -- fuel that they'll use to transport more trash. Columbia city officials on Monday are introducing their "Southern Fried Fuel" initiative. Officials are encouraging Columbia residents to drop off their used cooking oil at the city's public works department. Midlands Biofuels will collect the oil each week and convert it into fuel to power one of Columbia's garbage trucks.

August 31, 2010

Authorities are warning people along much of the Atlantic seaboard to beware of rip tides from distant hurricanes after a surfer died and a swimmer was reported missing. Surfers pulled 47-year-old Tazwell Brown from the water off Satellite Beach in central Florida on Saturday. No official cause of death has been determined, but investigators say the Ocoee, Fla., man appeared to have drowned. Authorities in Ocean City, Md., called off a search Sunday for a 23-year-old man from Washington who went swimming late Saturday. More than 250 people in Ocean City and roughly 70 on Florida's central Atlantic Coast were rescued from rip currents. Swimmers are being warned to stay close to shore or out of the water altogether until Hurricanes Danielle and Earl run their course

August 31, 2010

Federal officials urged U.S. residents to prepare for possible evacuations and islanders in the Turks and Caicos braced for high winds Tuesday as powerful Hurricane Earl howled over open seas toward the East Coast of the U.S. The Category 4 hurricane, with winds of 135 mph (215 kilometers), was expected to remain over the open ocean before turning north and running parallel to the U.S. coast, potentially reaching the North Carolina coastal region by late Thursday or early Friday. It was projected then to curve back out to sea, perhaps swiping New England or far-eastern Canada. "We can't totally rule out a very close approach to either of the Cape Hatteras areas or Cape Cod and southern New England as the storm progresses further," said Bill Read, director of the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami. Earl delivered a glancing blow to several small Caribbean islands on Monday, tearing roofs off of homes and cutting electricity to people in Anguilla, Antigua, and St. Maarten. Cruise ships were diverted and flights canceled across the region. But there were no reports of death or injury. In Providenciales in the Turks and Caicos, a British territory, Benson Capron was among several fishermen tying their boats to trees lining a beach. "I hear it is going to pass, but I will not take any chances," Capron said. "Today I will not go out to fish." Forecasters said it was too early to say what effect Earl would have in the U.S., but warned it could at least kick up dangerous rip currents. A surfer died in Florida and a Maryland swimmer had been missing since Saturday in waves spawned by former Hurricane Danielle, which weakened to a tropical storm Monday far out in the north Atlantic. Craig Fugate, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said evacuations may be necessary along the eastern seaboard later this week if the storm does not veer away from the coast as expected. "Today is the day to make sure you have your plan completed and your supplies in place," Fugate said. The storm's center passed just north of the British Virgin Islands on Monday afternoon. Despite a few lost fishing boats and several uprooted trees in Tortola and Anegada, there were no reports of major damage or injuries, said Sharleen DaBreo, disaster management agency director. By midday Tuesday, Earl's center was about 205 miles (335 kilometers) east of Grand Turk island as it headed west-northwest at 14 mph (22 kph), according to the hurricane center. Hurricane strength winds extended up to 70 miles (110 kilometers) from the center, it said. Tropical storm conditions were expected to spread into the Turks and Caicos by Tuesday afternoon. Close on Earl's heels, Tropical Storm Fiona formed Monday afternoon in the open Atlantic. The storm, with maximum winds of 40 mph (65 kph), was projected to pass just north of the Leeward Islands by Wednesday and stay farther out in the Atlantic than Earl's northward path. Fiona was not expected to reach hurricane strength over the next several days. Residents were cleaning up debris and assessing damage Tuesday on islands across the northeastern Caribbean. In Puerto Rico, nearly 187,000 people were without power and another 60,000 without water, Gov. Luis Fortuno said. More than a dozen roads along the north coast remained closed as crews removed trees and downed power lines. In St. Maarten, sand and debris littered the streets, and winds knocked down trees and electricity poles and damaged roofs. But police spokesman Ricardo Henson said there was no extensive damage to property. In Antigua, at least one home was destroyed but there were no reports of serious injuries. Governor General Dame Louise Agnetha Lake-Tack declared Monday a public holiday to keep islanders off the road and give them a chance to clean up.

September 21, 2010

It's an anniversary that many folks in the Carolinas would just as soon forget. Twenty-one years ago Tuesday, Category 4 Hurricane Hugo smashed into the South Carolina coast with its 135 mph winds, bringing a path of destruction all the way into central North Carolina. The

1989 storm swept away houses on South Carolina sea islands, tossed boats into piles like they were toys and then stormed inland. Hugo was still a Category 1 hurricane when it passed just west of Charlotte, N.C. Hugo caused \$6 billion in damage, mostly in the Carolinas, Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands. The National Hurricane Center said that the storm killed 49 people, including 13 in South Carolina and one in North Carolina.

September 21, 2010

Unusual wind patterns this year are pushing rarely seen jellyfish from the Gulf Stream onto beaches along the coast of the Carolinas. The Sun News of Myrtle Beach reported a Virginia couple found a Portuguese man-of-war on the beach last month. That creature usually stays in the Gulf Stream about 50 miles off the coast. Marine biologists at Coastal Carolina University in Conway said winds have been pushing toward the shore in recent weeks -- an unusual pattern for summer and fall that's bringing in rarely seen jellyfish. Scientists said a group of blue button jellyfish washed ashore when Hurricane Earl passed by earlier this month. Scientists said the east winds could improve water quality and fishing conditions. Generally summer and fall winds blow from the southwest parallel to shore.

September 26, 2010

The National Weather Service cancelled a flood watch in effect for parts of the area as rainfall begins to lighten up. The Weather Service had issued the flood watch until Monday evening for Anderson, Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, Spartanburg and Cherokee counties in South Carolina; and Transylvania, Henderson, Buncombe, Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Yancey and Mitchell counties in North Carolina. The watch was cancelled for all but Cherokee County in South Carolina and eastern Polk, eastern Rutherford, and eastern McDowell counties. Forecasters said that a strong area of low pressure to the west of the Carolinas will interact with a slow-moving front to produce periods of heavy rainfall across the watch area. They said late Monday morning that rainfall rates were not expected to be enough to raise concerns over flooding. FOX Carolina meteorologist Alexandra Wilson said that the rain will begin to wind down by Monday evening, with much more autumn-like weather arriving by Tuesday. Wilson said that high temperatures will stay in the middle to upper 70s for the remainder of the week with dry weather forecast. Thursday's forecast is still a bit unclear, Wilson said, as some computer models are bringing a tropical system into the area. She said that forecast will be fine-tuned as the end of the week approaches. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest weather information.

September 28, 2010

The Department of Environmental Enforcement said Tuesday it is looking for the person or people responsible for dumping nearly 200 tires in Obed Creek off Burnt Chimney Road. Officials said they have been talking to businesses in the area to find the person responsible. "We have spoke with some of the local garages in the area to see if they had tires taken off recently," said Jamie Nelson, DEE director. "We are also checking with landfills to see if someone came in late Monday afternoon and was turned away." Nelson said considering the amount of tires, the person responsible could get the maximum punishment of a \$2,000 fine and 30 days in jail. If you have any information about the tires, you are asked to call the DEE at 864-596-3582.

September 29, 2010

Tropical Storm Nicole is heading east, sparing most of South Carolina, but heavy rains and winds are still expected in North Carolina. The National Weather Service said the storm brewing north of Cuba now looks like it will have little effect on the East Coast. But a low pressure system moving ahead of the storm is expected to drop at least seven inches of rain in eastern North Carolina and whip up strong winds Wednesday night and Thursday morning. Meteorologist Michael Caropolo in Wilmington said 15 inches of rain already have fallen in the area this week. Flood watches are in effect for the area through Thursday morning. South Carolina's coast is likely to see one to three inches of rain, with some minor flooding possible. FOX Carolina meteorologist Alexandra Wilson said that Upstate South Carolina and the mountains of North Carolina will see scattered showers and storms through Thursday evening as the two systems collide.

Attachments



Government

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM OR NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **GOVERNMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Sundays	10:00 am	FOX NEWS SUNDAY

Description:

Fox News Sunday is a national weekly program with current events and political issues. (60:00)

July 12, 2010

State Rep. Nikki Haley did not become a campaign cash winner until after she had nearly won a nasty GOP primary outright. An analysis of campaign finance reports filed before Saturday's midnight deadline shows far less than half of the \$542,728 Haley raised since late April came before the June 8 primary. That left her the cash-raising underdog heading into the contest as her campaign was rocked by unsubstantiated allegations of affairs that she denied. Haley has so far raised \$1.4 million for the race and spent \$1.2 million. U.S. Rep. Gresham Barrett, who spent \$3.1 million, ultimately lost the runoff to Haley. Haley reports she finished June with \$182,745 for the general election race. She faces Democratic nominee and state Sen. Vincent Sheheen, who had \$262,473.

July 14, 2010

Gov. Mark Sanford is promoting a new law allowing people to sample beer at South Carolina microbreweries. The ceremonial signing on Tuesday was held at R.J. Rockers Brewery in Spartanburg. Sanford called it a common sense law that gives businesses more freedom. He actually signed the bill into law last month. Brewer's Association president Jaime Tenny said the state has five microbreweries. But she expects the craft brew business to increase under the law. The measure allows samplings and on-site sales only if customers take a tour. Each tourist can buy up to a case of beer per day. Brewers said they hope customers like what they sample, buy some to go, then ask for it later when they go out. State law already allows wine and liquor tastings.

July 23, 2010

There are a lot of things in South Carolina that are tax free, such as groceries, electricity, water and prescription drugs; however, a newly released tax study may change that. The state tax commission wants to eliminate nearly \$700 million in state tax exemptions, by taxing certain items that are now tax free. The commission wants to reduce the state sales tax by more than a cent, but make up for it by collecting tax on many more items that are currently exempt. Items such as groceries, water, electricity and prescription drugs could be taxed up to 2.5 cents on the dollar. Other items such as dairy products, concession sales at festivals, hearing aids and car with dealer tags could be taxed up to 4.96 cents on the dollar. The General Assembly will vote on the proposal in January. Gov. Mark Sanford's office said that the Republican will not comment on the proposal until he has an understanding of what is at stake.

July 23, 2010

New estimates from the White House on Friday predict the budget deficit will reach a record \$1.47 trillion this year. The government is borrowing 41 cents of every dollar it spends. That's actually a little better than the administration predicted in February. The new estimates paint a grim unemployment picture as the economy experiences a relatively jobless recovery. The unemployment rate, presently averaging 9.5 percent, would average 9 percent next year under the new estimates. The Office of Management and Budget report has ominous news for President Barack Obama should he seek re-election in 2012 - a still-high unemployment rate of 8.1 percent. That would be well above normal, which is closer to a rate of 5.5 percent to 6 percent. Private economists don't think the unemployment rate will drop to those levels until well into this decade. "The U.S. economy still faces strong headwinds," the OMB report said. They include tight credit markets, a high inventory of unsold housing and retrenchment by state governments bound by balanced budget mandates. The European debt crisis has also had an impact. "Despite these headwinds, the administration expects economic growth and job creation to continue for the rest of 2010 and to rise in 2011 and beyond," the report said. The gaping deficits are of increasing concern to voters. But Obama and Democrats controlling Congress are mostly taking a pass on deficit reduction this year as they await possible recommendations from Obama's deficit commission. While there's a slight improvement in the deficit for the current year compared to the administration's February forecast, next year's predicted \$1.42 trillion worth, next year's predicted \$1.42 trillion worth of red ink - that's 37 cents of borrowing for every dollar spent - is looking worse. It's about \$150 billion more than previously predicted, because of still-slumping tax revenues. The current record holder is the \$1.41 trillion deficit for 2009. Economists agree that the most important measure of the deficit is against the size of the economy. Opinions vary, but many economists say a deficit of 3 percent of gross domestic product is sustainable since it would stabilize the overall debt when measured relative to the economy. The report put the deficit at 10 percent of GDP this year and 9.2 percent of GDP next year. It would never reach the 3 percent figure under Obama's predictions - which underestimate war costs and depend on assumptions of tax increases that may not materialize. OMB Director Peter Orszag said the numbers represent a "fiscal situation that requires attention." Obama "has done little to confront this domestic enemy," said Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind. "Washington desperately needs real leadership. We cannot continue to

postpone the hard choices and sacrifices that are necessary to stop this fiscal train wreck." Deficits have skyrocketed since the recession took hold in 2008 and Congress responded with a massive bailout of the financial system and last year's \$862 billion stimulus measure. "What we should be doing now is putting in place deficit reduction policies that will kick in after the economy has more fully recovered," said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad of North Dakota. "It is an unsustainable long-term course."

August 20, 2010

The Democratic National Committee has approved a 2012 presidential primary nominating calendar that pushes back the start of the voting by one month. Democrats will hold the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 6, 2012, and the New Hampshire primary on Feb. 14. Nevada caucuses will be Feb. 18 and the South Carolina primary on Feb. 28. Other states will go on March 6 or later. States holding their contests later will get anywhere from 5 percent to 20 percent more delegates to the convention. The party also is reducing the number of independent superdelegates from 20 percent of the total number of delegates to 15 percent. Obama is the likely nominee, but Democrats wanted to change the process anyway after the 2008 protracted primary fight.

September 27, 2010

A Justice Department investigation has found that FBI agents, including several supervisors, cheated on an important test covering the bureau's policies for conducting surveillance on Americans. Justice Department Inspector General Glenn Fine said Monday that his limited review of allegations that agents improperly took the open-book test together or had access to an answer sheet has turned up "significant abuses and cheating." Fine called on the bureau to discipline the agents, throw out the results and come up with a new test to see if FBI agents understand new rules allowing them to conduct surveillance and open files on Americans without evidence of criminal wrongdoing. The troubling review of the exam on surveillance rules follows Fine's report last week on the FBI's scrutiny of domestic activist groups. That investigation found that the FBI gave inaccurate information to Congress and the public when it claimed a possible terrorism link to justify monitoring an anti-war rally in Pittsburgh in 2002. That IG report also criticized the factual basis for opening or continuing FBI domestic terrorism investigations of some other nonviolent left-leaning groups. In the inquiry into the exam, the inspector general looked only at four FBI field offices and found enough troubling information to warrant a comprehensive review by the FBI. In one FBI field office, four agents exploited a computer software flaw "to reveal the answers to the questions as they were taking the exam," Fine said. Other test-takers used or circulated materials that essentially provided the test answers, he said. Fine said that almost all of those who cheated "falsely certified" that they did the work themselves, without the help of others. Last year, Assistant Director Joseph Persichini, the head of the FBI's Washington field office that investigates congressional wrongdoing and other crime in the nation's capital, retired amid a review of test-taking in his office. Persichini wrote down the answers to the test while two of his most senior managers were in the room taking the exam together, the IG said. Persichini used the answers he had written down to complete the exam another day, the IG added. A legal adviser also was in the room with Persichini and the two agents discussing the questions and possible answers. Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said he was "especially disheartened that several FBI supervisors cheated on this exam" and the senator called on the FBI to implement "a more trustworthy exam process going forward and hold accountable those responsible for the cheating." Most FBI employees took the exam between May 2009 and January 2010. "This report reinforces that the FBI cannot police itself," said Michael German, policy counsel to the American Civil Liberties Union. "There needs to be stronger oversight and stronger controls over the bureau's use of its investigative powers." German also expressed concern about the surveillance guidelines themselves, saying they enable the targeting of people for investigation when there is "no factual basis to support that speculative belief." An FBI professional organization said Monday it supported changes to ensure the integrity of future tests. "We look forward to working with the bureau to develop better procedures to ensure that future exams are conducted in a uniform manner with clear and consistent instruction in all locations," said Konrad Motyka, president of the FBI Agents Association, which has membership of nearly 12,000 active and retired agents.

September 28, 2010

Don't look for tax form and instructions in your mailbox next year. The Internal Revenue Service has decided to stop mailing them because so many people now file electronically. The Washington Post reports on its website Monday that the IRS expects to save about \$10 million a year by eliminating mailing. More than 96 million people filed their returns through the IRS online service last year, and about 20 million filed paper returns through paid tax preparers. The IRS says only 11.5 million people who filed paper returns received forms in the mail. The agency says people who want to file paper returns will be able to obtain the forms from the IRS website or its offices as well as some libraries and post offices.

September 30, 2010

More people signed up for Medicaid last year than at any time since the program's inception, as the recession wiped out jobs and workplace health coverage. A report released Thursday by the nonprofit Kaiser Family Foundation found that enrollment in the safety-net medical insurance program jumped to more than 48 million. With the economy barely improving, states are forecasting a 6 percent increase in the rolls next year, meaning another strain on their cash-depleted budgets. The Medicaid numbers are the latest piece to emerge in a grim statistical picture of the recession's toll. The ranks of the working-age poor climbed to the highest level since the 1960s last year, according to a recent Census report. Nearly 12 million households received food stamps, a record. Rising Medicaid enrollment also underscores the

growing role of the government in health care, a polarizing issue in this year's midterm congressional elections after President Barack Obama and Democrats pushed through a massive overhaul of the nation's health care system. Since the start of the recession in December 2007, nearly 6 million people have signed up for Medicaid, according to Kaiser. That period includes the biggest 12-month increase since the program's early days: 3.7 million new enrollees from December 2008 to December 2009. "There seems to be no end in sight to the fiscal pressure on the Medicaid program," said Vernon Smith, who co-authored the Kaiser report. Starting in the fall of 2008, the federal government provided more than \$100 billion in additional Medicaid funding to help states cover growing numbers of people in need. The last of that money will run out in June of next year, and states will face a jump of 25 percent or more in their share of costs, although they are still likely to be financially strapped. If Republicans win control of Congress, they may find it difficult to turn down requests for more aid from the states. With or without Obama's overhaul, government is becoming the dominant player in health care. Federal, state and local government spending will overtake private sources in 2011, three years before the new law's major coverage expansion, Medicare economists said in a recent report. Medicaid is a federal-state partnership created with Medicare in 1965 under President Lyndon Johnson. It covers low-income families and many elderly in nursing homes, with Washington paying about 60 percent of the cost on average. Medicaid has also been assigned a major role under the new health care law, which expands the program to cover an estimated 18 million additional low-income adults starting in 2014. For now, states are cutting Medicaid to try to curb costs. Nearly every state - 48 in all - took some action to limit Medicaid spending this year, and most plan more cuts next year. Although they didn't reduce eligibility, Kaiser found that states took steps to restrict the scope of coverage: - A record 20 states placed restrictions on benefits, and 14 plan new restrictions next year. Arizona, California, Hawaii and Massachusetts eliminated some or all dental coverage. Other states limited medical imaging, therapies, supplies and personal care. - Thirty-nine states cut or froze payments to hospitals, doctors and other service providers, and most plan another round next year. Medicaid payment rates are already so low that in many states it's hard to find doctors who will accept the coverage. Yet 20 states lowered payments to doctors this year, and 12 plan to do so next year. - Eighteen states placed limits on long-term care services, and 10 plan additional limits next year. The recession officially ended in mid-2009, but the Kaiser study indicates its ill effects will take a while longer to wear off. Meanwhile, states will have to gear up for the major Medicaid expansion under the health care law. "We're on a teeter board," said Carol Steckel, president of the National Association of Medicaid Directors, and head of Alabama's program. "Every now and then that teeter board balances. But it's going to be rare. There's always something else."

Attachments



Jobs, Economy, Growth

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **JOBS/ECONOMY/GROWTH**

DATE

TIME

PROGRAM

July 1, 2010

BMW said Thursday that it will hire more than 500 new workers in the next few months. The new hires are just one phase of the company's preparation for production of the next generation BMW X3, and are also part of a \$750 million plant expansion. BMW said that the new contingency associates will also prepare the Spartanburg plant to meet the growing demand for other models being made for worldwide markets. "We are pleased to report that the BMW X5 and X6 vehicles produced in our Spartanburg plant are selling very well around the world," said BMW Manufacturing Company President Josef Kerscher. The new employees will be eligible for health, dental, 401(k) and vacation benefits. BMW said that its contracted staffing partner, MAU, will be responsible for hiring the new employees. Job fairs for the new position will be held July 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Greenville OneStop office and on July 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Spartanburg Community College Tyger River Campus. For more information on the jobs, visit <http://www.mau.com/bmwjobs>.

July 6, 2010

The job of a Spartanburg County fire chief will be the topic of discussion during a meeting Tuesday afternoon. Commissioners of the Holly Springs Fire District will meet at the fire department on Highway 357 in Inman at 4 p.m. The commissioners will be talking about whether Fire Chief Lee Jeffcoat will keep his job. Jeffcoat has come under fire by some who say his \$50,000 salary is too much for the small department to handle. Others said that Jeffcoat has done great things for the fire district and the department. "I think he is going to be black-balled," said Brian Killian, a resident. "I don't think a group of people against one person is fair." "This new board is trying to get our budget under control," said Michael Bell, another resident. "That's what this is all about." Jeffcoat was not available for comment Monday. Firefighters at the department have threatened to quit if Jeffcoat loses his job. Jeffcoat has said the commissioners are upset about money he spent on water and food for his firefighters during the search for a drowning victim in June. He said that the board told him he could either become a part-time employee or quit.

July 7, 2010

Mac fans rejoice! A new Apple store will open in the Upstate this weekend. Apple said it will open a store in Haywood Mall at 10 a.m. Saturday. The store is located on the first floor under the food court near the Sears store. The windows are taped up right now, but Apple said that the new store will be the best place to learn about all the latest products from the company, including the recently released iPhone 4. The company said that every store offers a range of free services designed to help customers get the most out of their Apple products, including support and advice, hands-on workshops and special kid programs.

July 7, 2010

Hundreds of people lined up outside the state employment in Greenville on Wednesday, trying to grab one of the new jobs at the BMW plant. Last Thursday, the car maker said it would hire 500 workers at its Upstate plant, which is part of the company's \$750 million plant expansion. BMW said that the new contingency associates will also prepare the Spartanburg plant to meet the growing demand for other models being made for worldwide markets. "We are pleased to report that the BMW X5 and X6 vehicles produced in our Spartanburg plant are selling very well around the world," said BMW Manufacturing Company President Josef Kerscher. The new employees will be eligible for health, dental, 401(k) and vacation benefits. BMW said that its contracted staffing partner, MAU, will be responsible for hiring the new employees. Wednesday's job fair will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Greenville OneStop office. There will be another job fair on July 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Spartanburg Community College Tyger River Campus. For more information on the jobs, visit <http://www.mau.com/bmwjobs>.

July 14, 2010

Hundreds of people lined the sidewalks at Spartanburg Community College's Tyger River Campus on Wednesday morning for a chance at one of 500 jobs coming to BMW's Greer plant. The auto company is looking for full-time workers to build its new X3 model. The first person in line for the job fair arrived at 4:30 a.m. By the time the doors opened at 9 a.m., the line stretched around the building. "I have been looking ever since I was laid off in 2009," said Tony Manqin, a job seeker from Spartanburg. "It's not easy." The job fair runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday. The jobs pay about \$15.00 an hour and include benefits.

July 14, 2010

The number of Americans filing for initial unemployment insurance dropped to the lowest level in nearly two years last week, according to a government report released Thursday. There were 429,000 initial jobless claims filed in the week ended July 10,

the lowest level since Aug. 23 2008 and down 29,000 from a revised 458,000 in the previous week, the Labor Department said. The number of claims was much lower than expected. A consensus estimate of economists surveyed by Briefing.com expected 450,000 claims. "We've been waiting for the day that this number creeps toward 400,000, and it looks like that's finally where we're headed," said Craig Thomas, senior economist at PNC Financial Services. "We've come a long way from the peaks of last year, and while we stalled out at the beginning of this year, it looks like now we're creating jobs at a pace that will actually put a dent in the unemployment rate," he added. The 4-week moving average of initial claims, which is calculated to smooth out volatility, was 455,250, down 11,750 from the previous week's revised average of 467,000. **Continuing claims:** The number of people filing continuing claims rose to 4,681,000 in the week ended July 3, the most recent data available. That was up 247,000 from the preceding week's revised 4,434,000 claims. Economists surveyed by Briefing.com expected ongoing claims to edge lower to 4,400,000 from the unrevised 4,413,000 in the previous week. The 4-week moving average for ongoing claims rose by 22,000 to 4,581,250 from the preceding week's revised 4,559,250. But Thomas said the increase in continuing claims should be taken with a grain of salt. "Continuing claims really haven't been range-bound in the way that initial claims have been, and it's fairly clear that in the long run, continuing claims are on a downward slope," said Thomas. "We got a one week jump upward, but it looks like just a blip, and not enough of a blip to suggest anything other than statistical noise." **Outlook:** Thomas said he expects claims to continue to fall as the economy recovers and more jobs are created. "We have some problems to work through in the near term, like fewer home sales," said Thomas. "But in the longer term, inventories are very lean and productivity is slowing, indicating that companies are needing workers."

July 20, 2010

South Carolina's unemployment rate has dropped to 10.7 percent, but the state also saw the total number of jobs decrease in June. The Department of Employment and Workforce reported Tuesday that the June unemployment rate was down from a revised 11.1 percent in May. The national rate reported earlier this month also was down slightly at 9.5 percent. South Carolina's report showed there were 3,000 fewer jobs in the state last month and nearly 10,000 fewer people in the work force. It was the fourth straight monthly decline in the size of the work force and fifth straight decline in the unemployment rate. South Carolina has had one of the nation's highest jobless rates for several years, peaking at 12.5 percent in January. It has shown steady improvement since then.

July 23, 2010

Automotive supplier ZF Group will spend \$350 million on a transmission plant in South Carolina that will create 900 jobs beginning in 2012. Friedrichshafen, Germany-based ZF said Thursday it would supply fuel-efficient transmissions for passenger cars and the light truck market from the plant being built in Laurens County. ZF already has a suspension module plant in Duncan that has about 150 workers. ZF spokesman Bryan Johnson said South Carolina beat at least a dozen other states for the facility. The company supplies several automakers with plants in the U.S., including Chrysler, BMW, Hyundai and Volkswagen. Johnson said that the rear-wheel drive transmissions will be supplied to Chrysler and other customers the company is not announcing for now.

August 11, 2010

A recent poll ranks Greenville as third best in the country for its job market and South Carolina as first in the country for its economic growth potential. In recent months, the phones at Snelling Staffing have been ringing non-stop. On the line are people looking for a job and employers looking to hire. "I'm seeing a lot of people relocating to the area because of the job market here," said Stephen Terry, of Snelling Staffing. "It's a lot stronger than other areas." Manpower Survey, a national ranking of job markets in America, seems to agree. "It's exciting," said Herb Drew, of Human Technologies. "I think it's great news." Drew said that his company staffs employees for several companies in the area and said he has seen business more than double. "This time last year we had about 750 contract associates out, and this week we pay a little over 2,000," Drew said. "So, just look at the increase in a little over a year." It all sounds like good news, but there's another picture. "Even though there is a lot of hiring going on, the unemployment rate is still so high," Terry said. "We had a job fair about three or four weeks ago, and probably had 750 people show up and of that 750 we could only hire about 65 people so we basically had to not hire 700 people," said Drew. Some economists seem to have an even bleaker picture, saying the job market is at a standstill, finally leveling out only to tank in the future. "We believe we are in a lull between two storms and we've done a lot of research that we are sharing with CEO's," said Gagen Rogers, an investment banker with Watermark Advisors. "We've been in a bubble economy. We've had four bubbles to burst, and we have two more and they are more concerning than what we've had in the past." Economists said that we can look for the job market to take another dip in the next two years, but staffers said to survive that dip it is a good idea to specialize your skills and start building business relationships.

August 20, 2010

South Carolina's jobless rate was up slightly last month, to 10.8 percent -- ending five months of decline. The state Department of Employment and Workforce said Friday the labor force decreased again -- for the fifth straight month. July's rate was up from 10.7 percent in June and compares with a national jobless rate of 9.5 percent for July. The total number of jobs in the state decreased more than 30,000 for the month, led by a seasonal reduction of education workers and the loss of about 2,000 temporary Census jobs. Since July 2009, however, 18,000 jobs have been added to the state's economy. Marion County had the highest unemployment rate with nearly one in five residents looking for work. Lexington County had the lowest rate at 8.2 percent.

August 20, 2010

Unemployment fell in fewer states in July than in the previous three months, a sign that the pace of job growth has slowed. The jobless rate dropped in 18 states and Washington, D.C. last month, the Labor Department said Friday. It rose in 14 states and stayed the same in 18. That's a slowdown from the past three months when unemployment fell in more than 30 states. Nationwide, the unemployment rate remained stuck at 9.5 percent in July. The report suggests many states are seeing less improvement in the job market than earlier this year. But there were positive signs that indicate the recovery hasn't stalled out. Thirty-seven states saw job gains in July, an improvement from June but below the 41 states that gained jobs in May. That occurred even as many states lost temporary census jobs. Overall, 143,000 census jobs across the country ended in July. Private employers, meanwhile, added 71,000 jobs last month. Job market improvement "is slow, but it's still moving in the right direction," said Steve Cochrane, an economist at Moody's Analytics. There were some bright spots in the Northeast. New York and Massachusetts reported strong job gains. Massachusetts added 19,200 private-sector jobs, the largest monthly gain in more than 20 years. The increases in Massachusetts were broad-based. They included 6,100 new jobs in hotels and restaurants, 1,600 additional jobs in retail and 2,800 new jobs in manufacturing. The state was one of the first to see its housing sector slump, Cochrane said, and may now be exiting the downturn earlier than other states. Still, Massachusetts' unemployment rate was 9 percent in July, the same as in June. New York added 29,000 private-sector jobs, the largest gain since April 2005. The state reported more jobs in leisure and hospitality, manufacturing, construction and professional and business services. Several Midwest states reported large job increases in manufacturing. Increasing industrial output has powered the recovery in the past year. Automakers in particular have boosted production after many car dealers cleared their lots during last year's Cash for Clunkers program. Michigan reported a jump of 27,800 new jobs in July, most of them in manufacturing. But that figure was likely inflated by General Motors' decision last month to forgo its usual summer shutdown to retool its factories for the upcoming model year. That reduced layoffs at the company and for many of its suppliers in July. Indiana, Illinois and Ohio also posted job gains in manufacturing. But the boost in manufacturing jobs may fade soon, Cochrane said. Many companies have finished rebuilding inventories that were pared back during the recession. Retailers and other companies now have their inventories more in line with sales. That means that unless sales pick up, less production will be needed in the second half of this year. Nevada posted the nation's highest unemployment rate for the third straight month, at 14.3 percent. It took the top spot from Michigan, which held it for four years, in May. Michigan's rate, the second highest, fell slightly to 13.1 percent from 13.2 percent in June. California posted the third-highest rate, at 12.3 percent, the same as the previous month. The states with the lowest jobless rates last month were North Dakota, at 3.6 percent; South Dakota, at 4.4 percent; and Nebraska, at 4.7 percent.

August 27, 2010

The economy grew at a much slower pace this spring than previously estimated, mostly due to the largest surge in imports in 26 years and a slowdown in companies' restocking of goods. The nation's gross domestic product - the broadest measure of the economy's output - grew at a 1.6 percent annual rate in the April-to-June period, the Commerce Department said Friday. That's down from an initial estimate of 2.4 percent last month and much slower than the first quarter's 3.7 percent pace. Shortly after the revision was announced, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said the Fed will consider making another large-scale purchase of securities if the slowing economy deteriorates significantly. But the Fed chief stopped short of committing to any specific action. Bernanke described the economic outlook as "inherently uncertain" and said the economy "remains vulnerable to unexpected developments." The lower estimate for economic growth and Bernanke's comments follow a week of disappointing economic reports. The housing sector is slumping badly after the expiration of a government homebuyer tax credit. And business spending on big-ticket manufactured items such as machinery and software, an important source of growth earlier this year, is also tapering off. Most analysts expect the economy will grow at a similarly weak pace for the rest of this year. "We seem to be in the early stages of what might be called a 'growth recession,'" said Ethan Harris, an economist at Bank of America-Merrill Lynch. The economy is likely to keep expanding, but at a snail's pace and without creating many more jobs. Harris expects the nation's output will grow at about a 2 percent pace in the second half of this year. As a result, the jobless rate could rise from its current level of 9.5 percent. That's "very disappointing relative to a normal business cycle," he said. "Usually you get a bigger bounce back." The stock market rose after the GDP report was issued. Trading fluctuated shortly after Bernanke's speech was released, and the Dow Jones Industrial average rose about 50 points in early trading. Broader indexes also edged down. The widening trade deficit subtracted nearly 3.4 percentage points from second quarter growth, the largest hit from a trade imbalance since 1947, the government said. Many economists expect that impact to lessen in the coming quarters. As businesses pare back their spending on inventories and reduce investment in new equipment, imports should decline. The economy has grown for four straight quarters, but that growth has averaged only 2.9 percent, a weak pace after such a steep recession. The economy needs to expand at about 3 percent just to keep the unemployment rate from rising. Business investment in new machinery, computers and software drove much of the growth last quarter, increasing nearly 25 percent. But much of that spending involved the purchase of imported goods. Imports surged 32.4 percent, the most since 1984. That overwhelmed a 9.1 percent increase in exports. Consumers spent a bit more in the second quarter than previously calculated. Their spending rose at a 2 percent annual rate, above the 1.6 percent estimated last month and slightly higher than the first quarter's 1.9 percent. The revised estimate was largely due to higher electricity and natural gas usage, the Commerce Department said. Economists expect many other supports for economic growth to fade. Federal government spending and the housing sector bolstered the economy last quarter, but housing has slumped again and will likely drag growth down in the third quarter. The impact of the federal government's \$862 billion stimulus package is also projected to taper off this year. There are few other signs of strength. Even business investment is expected to drop, as a report earlier this week showed that business orders for capital goods fell in July. When adjusted for inflation, the economy is still smaller than it was before the recession. The nation produced about \$13.23 trillion in goods and services in 2007. That total fell to \$12.88 trillion in 2009, during the depths of the downturn, and has since

recovered to a \$13.19 billion annual pace in the April-to-June period. The government's GDP report measures the economy's output of goods and services and covers everything from autos to haircuts. Friday's report is the second of three estimates the government makes each quarter.

August 27, 2010

Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke bluntly acknowledged that the U.S. economic recovery has lost considerable steam, but said the central bank has the necessary policy tools to support continued growth. "The issue at this stage is not whether we have the tools to help support economic activity and guard against inflation," Bernanke said at the Fed annual symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyo. "We do." Making his first public comments since the central bank announced it would buy additional long-term Treasury's to boost the recovery, Bernanke said that the pace of economic growth is "less vigorous" than expected, but the preconditions for a pickup in 2011 remain in place. Bernanke reiterated that the Fed would reinvest in Treasury's, and added that the bank is prepared to provide additional "unconventional measures if it proves necessary, especially if the outlook were to deteriorate significantly." Earlier Friday, the government lowered its reading of second-quarter economic activity to an annualized growth rate of 1.6%, down sharply from the 2.4% previously estimated.

August 30, 2010

The South Carolina Commerce Department said Monday that plastic maker Jatco Inc. will invest \$2 million and employ 39 people in a new production facility in Greenwood. The agency said that the California company is renovating an existing building and expects to begin production before the end of the year. Chief executive Paul Appelblom said that demand for his company's plastic molding products is growing. Jatco's customers range from printing to the medical sector. The facility would be Jatco's first on the East Coast.

September 20, 2010

USA Cycling said it will keep its professional championships in Greenville through 2012. USA Cycling chief executive Steve Johnson said Sunday that the event will be moved to Memorial Day weekend for the 2011 and 2012 championships. The time trial will be held on Saturday, May 28, 2011, and the road race will be held on Monday that year. Johnson said the change allows points from the race to go toward riders' UCI World rankings and will give riders a much-needed day off between the time trial and road race.

September 20, 2010

General Motors said Monday it was recalling more than 20,000 Cadillac CTS and CTS-V vehicles to replace a glove compartment box that could lead to leg injuries in a crash. GM says the recall involves nearly 5,000 all-wheel drive 2009 Cadillac CTS and CTS-V models, and more than 15,000 vehicles from the 2010 model year. Tests conducted by the government found that a front seat passenger not wearing a seat belt could strike the glove box door and sustain leg injuries in a crash. GM said all motorists should wear seat belts. The automaker plans to begin notifying owners of the recall next month. Dealers will replace the glove compartment assembly at no charge. Owners can contact Cadillac at 866-982-2339.

September 21, 2010

South Carolina's unemployment rate jumped to 11 percent last month, up from a revised 10.7 percent in July. The Department of Employment and Workforce said Tuesday the number of out-of-work residents increased, and the number of people with jobs dropped. The state's labor force increased slightly to 2.15 million, ending a five-month slide. There were about 31,000 fewer workers in August than a year earlier. The national unemployment rate was up 0.1 percentage points in August, to 9.6 percent. Government jobs increased 22,300 for the month as teachers and other school employees went back to work. There were 3,300 fewer tourism jobs. Marion County continued to have the highest unemployment rate at 19.8 percent. Lexington County again had the lowest rate, at 8.6 percent.

September 30, 2010

Joe Armstrong has been a business owner for more than 40 years. He currently owns Junior's Sports Bar and Restaurant in Greenville County and Shaum's Bar and Cafe in the city of Greenville. Armstrong said that too many city government regulations make it difficult for small business owners to make it. "Regulations kill businesses," Armstrong said. "Twenty-five years ago, when I applied for a liquor license, they sent me two pages. Last time I got a license, two years ago, they sent me 40 pages." Greenville City Council members are reviewing a proposal for business owners who want to open new bars and nightclubs. The proposal would create what's being called a "special exception" permit. That means before a potential owner gets a business license, he or she will have to be approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals. "Who's on this board, and who's going to make the decision, and how many hoops are they going to make us businesspersons jump through," Armstrong said. For example, some of the rules could include no music outside or requiring music to end at a certain time. That would depend on the location of the business. City leaders said they are considering the proposal because they are trying to keep the public safe. "We want someone who's going to run a good establishment of course," said Armstrong. "That's what the city wants and what all government people want and what patrons want." Last year, Greenville police said they responded to 104 incidents at the nightclub Coyote Moon. On March 8, 2009, police said shots rang out and two people were arrested. On July 4, an arrest was made when investigators said a person was charged with assault and battery with intent to kill. Detectives said that on Oct. 11, 2009, they responded to an armed robbery at the club, and

on Nov. 11, the city revoked the business owner's license and shut the place down. Armstrong said he believes many of the problems could be solved with more law enforcement presence, not regulations. City Council members unanimously voted for the proposal during its first reading. The second reading is scheduled for Oct. 12. If it is approved, the proposal will become law.

Attachments



Quality of Life

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
THIRD QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **QUALITY OF LIFE**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Sundays 6:00am		MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH
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Description: A church service airing Sunday mornings. (1-hour)

Sundays 8:30am		MUD CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
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Description: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 9:30 am		TAYLORS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Description: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 10:30am		FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Description: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

July 7, 2010

For some, using drugs can cause a downward spiral. Addicts often find themselves hooked on everything from meth, to cocaine and alcohol. Administrators at the Phoenix Center said if they did not offer care at their detox facility, many of those addicts would die. "I recently started on a bad drinking binge and I couldn't quit," said one patient, who didn't want to be identified. "For me to try to detox without medical help off alcohol would kill me," he said. He said the detox facility and those who work there saved his life. "It makes me want to try again, instead of just giving up and saying 'Well, you know, there just ain't no use,'" he said. The man said that the support and medical services at the center are helping him make it through the withdrawal pains. He said he knows there are thousands more like him. "I wish there was more available out there," he said. In June, a similar facility in Spartanburg closed because of state budget cuts and lack of money. Now, those who were getting help there could have to go the Phoenix Center in Greenville for help, which is about 30 minutes away. "Detox is not necessarily a level of treatment, but it's absolutely a needed level of care in our community," said Adam Brickner, the executive director at the Phoenix Center. Brickner said that the center is expecting some referrals from the Spartanburg closure. "We'll assess you on the phone and if it's appropriate, we'll set up a time for you to come in," Brickner said. The detox facility has 16 beds, but employees said they do their best to get care for those who need it. Brickner said that without the facility addicts would be on the street. "You'd see an increase in the number of people going to the emergency department, you'd see an increase in the number of people being arrested and going to the jails," Brickner said. That's why the patient who did not want to be identified, was still willing to talk about his addiction to alcohol. He said that he's grateful for another chance and wants other addicts to be able to get that same chance. "There isn't a shortage of alcoholics and drug addicts and there isn't a shortage of alcoholics and addicts that want help," he said. Administrators at the Phoenix Center said financially things have been tough for them, too. They offer seven different services at three locations, but they have seen more than \$900,000 in cuts within the last two years. For more information on services at the Phoenix Center log onto phoenixcenter.org or call 864-467-3790.

July 7, 2010

When an emergency call goes out, firefighters are often first at the scene. Not only do they battle flames, but it's also now a requirement that all firefighters with the Anderson City Fire Department be certified first responders. That means they can give medical aid to those who need it. "We're running cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, unconscious, major traumas," said Luke Riddle, a firefighter with Anderson city. "Medshore does get really busy, there are lots of calls that come into 911 for emergency assistance," he said. The ambulance service is dispatched throughout the county and Riddle said it may take them longer to get to a scene. So that's when they pick up calls within the city limits. "Those several minutes really can save a life," Riddle said. "It's just a great program that helps people ultimately." Firefighters said they've already used their training. Within the first week of being certified responders, they gave medical treatment to two patients who were having heart attacks. In order to get that certification firefighters had to take a 60-hour training course

July 23, 2010

Vice President Joe Biden praised former Sen. Ernest Hollings as he attended the dedication of a library at the University of South Carolina named for the longtime senator. Biden thanked Hollings on Friday for his years of guidance as the men served together in Washington. Biden also said Hollings helped persuade him to stay in the Senate after Biden's wife and daughter died in a 1972 accident. Hollings sounded like he was campaigning when he addressed about 1,000 people crowded into the library. He said that Biden and President Barack Obama need to work harder to get the economy going. Hollings represented South Carolina for nearly 50 years. The 50,000-square foot facility houses the South Carolina Political Collections, which document the careers of many of the state's political leaders.

July 23, 2010

It is time for the Bele Chere festival in Asheville again. The music and art festival will take over the streets of downtown Asheville throughout the weekend. Vendors were busy Thursday afternoon putting up tents and getting the streets blocked off for the crowd of people expected to turn out this year. Bele Chere runs from noon Friday through Sunday night. Festival organizers said that parking will be tight, so they suggest festival goers have a parking plan, or use the shuttle system to get downtown. Organizers also have set up misting tents and specific air conditioned areas for folks needing to take a break from the heat. FOX Carolina meteorologist Alexandra Wilson said that temperatures will climb into the lower and middle 90s in Asheville over the weekend. She said that rain chances are low for the festival.

July 28, 2010

A recently released study by Businessweek.com ranks states by data produced by the American Time Use Survey by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, creating a list of the laziest states in the country. Most states in the South ranked high on the list, with South Carolina coming in at eighth place and North Carolina in fourth place. According to the study, people in South Carolina spend more than 8 hours a day sleeping, and three hours a day watching TV. Fitness expert John DeFendis said that the study shows more people need to start changing their lives, and that starts with making a commitment. "The reason we are lazy, and it ties in with the fact that we're tired, is because we are not eating healthy, we're not exercising and we're not involved in a fitness program," DeFendis said. South Carolina also ranked fourth in a recent study on state with the highest level of obesity.

August 18, 2010

South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford signed a controversial abortion bill into law Wednesday morning. The bill establishes a 24-hour waiting period before a woman can get an abortion. The current waiting period is one hour. Under the new law, women are required to have an ultrasound before the procedure. The bill also requires doctors to inform patients about the details of the procedure and the probable gestational age of the embryo or fetus. The signing happened at the Carolina Pregnancy Center in Spartanburg.

September 20, 2010

The "Go Pink For The Cure" campaign is under way from the mountains to the midlands. The South Carolina Mountains-to-Midlands Susan G. Komen Chapter kicked off the pink campaign Monday morning at Falls Park in Greenville. As part of the fundraiser, 125 businesses will go pink to raise awareness about breast cancer. "We've come a long way in 25 years," said Terry Von Gieson, the board president for the local Susan G. Komen chapter. "The 5-year-survival rate for early detectable breast cancer has gone for 74 percent to 98 percent." The "Go Pink" campaign runs until Oct. 2. The event also coincides with the 16th annual Race For The Cure event, which is set for Saturday.

September 27, 2010

Smokin' Joe is getting an award from his home state of South Carolina. Boxing champion Joe Frazier is scheduled to receive the Order of the Palmetto near where he grew up in Beaufort's Waterfront Park from Gov. Mark Sanford. The award is the state's highest civilian honor. Frazier grew up in Laurel Bay in Beaufort County. He eventually left as a teenager and moved to Philadelphia, where he became a championship prize fighter. Frazier won a gold medal at the 1964 Olympic Games and eventually held the undisputed heavyweight championship. He's perhaps best known for his three fights with Muhammad Ali, the first in 1971 dubbed "The Fight of the Century" and won by Frazier.